

1897

**RICHARD CORY**

**(From The Children of the Night)**

Edwin Arlington Robinson

**Robinson, Edward Arlington** (1869-1935) - American poet best known for his long narrative poems dealing with New England characters. His career as a poet was assured when President Theodore Roosevelt became interested in his work and helped to secure a place for him in the New York custom house. **Richard Cory** (1897) - A well-known character sketch, this poem is from his early collection, "The Children of the Night." Opening lines: Whenever Richard Cory went down town, / We people on the pavement looked at him: ...

## RICHARD CORY

Whenever Richard Cory went down town,  
We people on the pavement looked at him:  
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,  
Clean favored, and imperially slim.

And he was always quietly arrayed,  
And he was always human when he talked;  
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,  
“Good-morning,” and he glittered when he walked.

And he was rich- yes, richer than a king-  
And admirably schooled in every grace:  
In fine, we thought that he was everything  
To make us wish that we were in his place.

So on we worked, and waited for the light,  
And went without the meat, and cursed the bread;  
And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,  
Went home and put a bullet through his head.

**THE END**