

## Counting the Beats

### By Robert Graves

You, love, and I,  
(He whispers) you and I,  
And if no more than only you and I  
What care you or I?

Counting the beats,  
Counting the slow heart beats,  
The bleeding to death of time in slow heart beats,  
Wakeful they lie.

Cloudless day,  
Night, and a cloudless day,  
Yet the huge storm will burst upon their heads one  
day  
From a bitter sky.

Where shall we be,  
(She whispers) where shall we be,  
When death strikes home, O where then shall we be  
Who were you and I?

Not there but here,  
(He whispers) only here,  
As we are, here, together, now and here,  
Always you and I.

Counting the beats,  
Counting the slow heart beats,  
The bleeding to death of time in slow heart beats,  
Wakeful they lie.

### Questions:

1. What is the complex tone of the poem? And how does the author establish it?
2. What thematic topics does this poem address? And what is the poem saying about those topics? This a theme question.
3. Write a device to mean statement for this poem.
4. Write a poetry focus statement for this poem.