

# Poem Analyzer: Graven's, 'Grand Boneyard'

[ Poem Analyzer Analysis Performed in Jan. 2026 ]

<-Begin Poem->

## **Grand Boneyard**

by G.E. Graven

Greetings anew, grand boneyard.  
What privy parts do you hold,  
and why is it that none is home  
in your sacred sprawl of memories olde?

Show me your most decrepit stones, my friend,  
that I may determine forthwith how you grew  
spreading from that ancient cedar, outward,  
to this row of headstones planted new.

Whom do you protect from me, my pumpkin?  
*Fe, Fi,* Show me the thief and the preacher!  
Make known your earthen mounds of nameless slaves.  
Pray tell, I smell a swallowed soldier and a teacher!

So grand you are to guard such grave secrets ~  
so kingly serene you seem with a belly of bounteous death ~  
so soothing as Solomon you seem to all who arrive,  
yet the living visit only long enough to catch a guilt or breath.

Do they come to rub a wish upon your belly, my dear;  
or do they show simply to re-sentence themselves?  
Why do they hasten to leave, again, from your jaw-ajar gates,  
as if you were some whale, and them a freed Jonah as well?

No matter, a gentle lamb in wolf's hide you are, my bittersweet.  
For your placid cold bosom, I have always known you.  
I arrive again another day, not to visit olde bones, my grand advocate,  
since I pay my respects to no greater memory here than you.

>-End Poem-<

<-Begin Analysis->

### ### Theme

\*\*Central Idea:\*\* The poem explores the relationship between the living and the dead, delving into themes of memory, loss, and the nature of death. It reflects on how gravesites serve as repositories of history and secrets, while also expressing the ambivalence that the living feel when confronted with mortality.

\*\*Subject Matter:\*\* The poem is set in a graveyard, where the speaker addresses the graveyard as a living entity. The speaker's curiosity about those buried there reveals a deep engagement with the stories and histories that are intertwined with death and remembrance.

### ### Language

\*\*Word Choice:\*\* The language is rich and evocative, using terms like "boneyard," "sacred sprawl," and "decrepit stones" to create vivid images. The use of terms such as "pumpkin," "guilt," and "whale" adds an element of playfulness and depth, contrasting the solemnity of the graveyard with lighter, almost whimsical imagery.

### \*\*Literary Devices:\*\*

- \*\*Personification:\*\* The graveyard is addressed as "my pumpkin" and "my bittersweet," giving it human-like qualities and suggesting an intimate relationship between the speaker and the graveyard.

- \*\*Imagery:\*\* Vivid imagery is used throughout, such as "earthen mounds of nameless slaves" and "belly of bounteous death," which evokes strong visual and emotional responses.

- \*\*Metaphor:\*\* The graveyard is compared to a serene king, embodying both grandeur and a sense of quietude.

- \*\*Alliteration and Assonance:\*\* The poem employs alliteration (e.g., "grand boneyard") and assonance to create a musical quality in certain lines, enhancing the overall reading experience.

### ### Sound and Rhythm

\*\*Syllabic Patterns and Stresses:\*\* The poem does not adhere strictly to a specific metrical pattern, which contributes to its conversational tone. However, there are moments of regularity and variation in syllable counts, with lines often ranging from 8 to 12 syllables. The stresses are uneven, which helps to create an organic flow that mirrors the speaker's contemplative thoughts.

### ### Structure

\*\*Framework:\*\* The poem consists of multiple stanzas, each varying in length, which adds to its informal, reflective quality. The line breaks are intentional, creating pauses that allow for contemplation. There does not appear to be a strict rhyme scheme; however, there are instances of internal rhyme and slant rhyme that contribute to the poem's musicality. Punctuation is used effectively to create pauses and emphasize certain thoughts, guiding the reader's interpretation.

### ### Context

\*\*Who:\*\* The speaker of the poem is an observer or visitor to the graveyard, engaging in a dialogue with the space itself.

\*\*What:\*\* The poem is a meditation on the nature of death, memory, and the relationship between the living and the dead.

\*\*Where:\*\* The setting is a graveyard or boneyard, a place traditionally associated with death and remembrance.

\*\*When:\*\* Although the poem does not specify a particular time, it conveys timeless themes of mortality and memory that resonate across different eras.

\*\*Why:\*\* The speaker visits the graveyard not merely to mourn but to reflect on the memories it holds and to question the relationship between life and death. The exploration of these themes suggests a search for understanding and connection with the past, as well as a contemplation of one's own existence in relation to those who have come before.

>-End Analysis-<