

## II. Body Paragraphs

A. In the short story, "The Contents of the Dead Man's Pockets," the author expresses the theme of "Think before you act" by showing Tom's thoughts as he considers going out on the ledge. He considers the reasons for going out to get the piece of paper.

1. On page 175, Tom "thought of the hours he'd spent by himself, filling the yellow sheet that had brought him out here."
2. Tom also forced himself on page 167 to "get this over with before he thought too much, and at the window he didn't allow himself to hesitate."

Transition Statement to our 2nd Body Paragraph about the poem we read in class.

- B. In comparison to the themes from the short story, one may also analyze similar themes from other genres, such as the song by the Fray, entitled, "How to Save a Life."
1. One of these themes, "Listening to Others," is illustrated/exemplified/demonstrated in the lyrics of the song. The writer states in the first line of the song, "Step one, you say, 'We need to talk,'" indicating a desire to speak to someone or to communicate.
  2. This situation is shown in the short story as well when Tom decides to avoid the date with his wife, Clare, in the introduction.

### Reminder!

1 & 2 both contain Examples from the song selection or short story, with evidence quoted from specific lines or reference specific incidents and where in the plot they occurred. Each piece of evidence MUST be related back to a specific theme and explained. You cannot simply list quotes to make your point clear.

C. In addition, another theme from the song is the theme of fear, shown in the song lyrics, “between the lines of fear and blame.”

1. This stands in comparison to the fear Tom felt on page 169,

where a “violent, instantaneous explosion of terror roared through him.”

2. Also, on page 170 in the story, the author writes that Tom “was more than trembling now; his whole body was racked

with a violent shuddering beyond control.”

3. Tom also feels personal regret for his decisions, as shown on

page 175 in the lines, “He thought of all the evenings he’d spent away from her, working; and he regretted them.”