George Gray
by Edgar Lee Masters

1 I have studied many times
   The marble which was chiseled for me—
   A boat with a furled sail at rest in a harbor.
   In truth it pictures not my destination
5 But my life
   For love was offered me I shrank from its disillusionment;
   Sorrow knocked at my door, but I was afraid:
   Ambition called to me but I dreaded the chance.
   Yet all the while I hungered for meaning in my life.
10 And now I know that we must lift the sail
   And catch the winds of destiny
   Wherever they drive the boat.
   To put meaning in one's life may end in madness,
   But life without meaning is the torture
15 Of restlessness and vague desire—
   It is a boat longing for the sea and yet afraid.

1. Define the following words in the poem:
   • marble: _______________________________________
   • chiseled: _______________________________________
   • furled: _______________________________________
   • sail: _______________________________________
   • harbor: _______________________________________
   • destiny: _______________________________________

2. What is the Poem about?
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

3. What does the metaphor suggest in the first three lines of the poem?
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

4. Why does the speaker address life in this way in lines 6, 7 and 8?
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

5. Why was the speaker afraid of his destiny? And what has changed?
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