**A Man Said to the Universe**

By [Stephen Crane](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/stephen-crane)

A man said to the universe:

“Sir, I exist!"

“However,” replied the universe,

“The fact has not created in me

“A sense of obligation.”

Stephen Crane wrote this existentialist poem in 1899. Based on this poem and the course literature, complete the following task.

* Define Naturalism and Existentialism in your own words.
* Choose five characters from the stories in this unit.
* Write their response/thoughts/feelings about the Crane poem above. Each response should be a reasonable two or three sentences. You can either write this as a direct quote that the character would say, or as a summary of their thoughts. **(Base this on what those characters would logically say…not your own opinion. That comes later.)**
* Write your own opinion of Crane’s poem. This response should also be a reasonable two or three sentences. (Agree, disagree, what do you think of his tone, etc.)