

## **CHOICES:** **Building Your Portfolio**



### **Writer's Notebook**

#### **1. Collecting Ideas for an Analysis of Causes and Effects**

Why does Richard Cory kill himself? Why does Miniver Cheevy suffer so much? Brainstorm a list of causes you could speculate on to answer these questions. With each cause, list details from the poem that might support your speculation. Save your notes for possible use in the Writer's Workshop on page 685.

#### **Comparing and Contrasting Values**

#### **2. Rising Above or Mired Below?**

In a brief essay, show how either Richard Cory or Miniver Cheevy demonstrates, or fails to demonstrate, the Transcendentalist ideals of self-reliance and individualism championed by Emerson (page 216) and Thoreau (page 230). As the focus of your essay, choose an appropriate quotation from either of these writers.

#### **Creative Writing/Performance**

#### **3. From Page to Stage**

In prose or verse, let Richard Cory tell his own story in the first person. Reveal the reasons for Cory's unhappiness and his true thoughts about the townspeople. Then, present his story to the class in a dramatic monologue. (For more on dramatic monologue, see page 663 and the Handbook of Literary Terms.)