Step One:

1. Read the poem The Hangman by Maurice Ogden
2. Number the Lines

2. Determine the Rhyme Scheme

3. Write a brief summary after each section (the sections are numbered 1-4)

Step Two:

1. After reading Section 1 answer the following two questions:
   1. Why would someone dying be a relief to the other people in the town?
   2. Why is no one speaking out against the hangman? Use Textual Evidence.
2. After reading Section 2 answer the following two questions:
   1. The hangman will continue to make excuses for why he is killing people. What is the first excuse that the hangman gives to the town? Use Textual Evidence
   2. What happened to the person who spoke out against the hangman? Use Textual Evidence
3. After reading Section 3 answer the following two questions:
   1. The hangman gives two more excuses for the deaths in this section. What are those excuses and how many people have been hung at this point? Text Evidence
   2. By the end of this section, people have stopped asking questions. Why do you think that is?
4. After reading Section 4, answer the following three questions:
   1. In the first few stanzas, the narrator believes the hangman is calling him for what reason? Why is the hangman actually calling him?
   2. Reread the 7th stanza in section 4. Translate the hangman’s response to the narrator. What did the hangman say at the beginning of the poem and how has the narrator served him “faithfully”?

The PROMPT:

The poem *The Hangman*, by Maurice Odgen, is an intense portrayal of a town who encounters a hangman. This man is in charge of prosecuting (to carry out punishments) those who have committed crimes. However, he oversteps his original purpose and responsibilities and things go very wrong.

Edmund Burke once said, “The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” Using both the poem and Edmund Burke’s quote, explain what the two authors might be warning their reader’s about. **Discuss** the danger in not listening to Burke and Odgen’s words.