

#### **Q 4, W 3 (14 April 2025 - 18 April 2025)**

- Notes on I Hear America Singing
  - When was the poem written
  - Setting of the poem
  - What style is the poem written in and what is it supposed to sound like
  - Why did Whitman write this poem
  - What criticism does the poem have in modern day
- After reading the poem
  - Who is included in Whitman's version of America?
  - What kinds of jobs are represented?
  - What does Whitman seem to celebrate? Who/What is this celebration for?
  - What's missing? Consider everything we talked about the previous week about the American Dream.

### **Quick Summary Response (Classwork grade)**

Walt Whitman (1819–1892) was a 19th-century American poet known for breaking the rules of traditional poetry. Instead of using rhyme and strict structure, he wrote in free verse—a style that sounds more like natural speech.

Whitman is often called the “**poet of the people**” because he celebrated everyday Americans: the carpenter, the teacher, the farmer, the mechanic. He believed that all kinds of work had dignity and that every voice deserved to be heard.

His most famous collection, *Leaves of Grass*, grew over his lifetime and reflected his big ideas about democracy, individuality, and the American spirit. At a time when the country was divided (especially before and during the Civil War), Whitman wanted to remind people that America was made strong by its diversity and its people.

In poems like “I Hear America Singing,” Whitman creates a kind of musical portrait of the nation—filled with voices, jobs, and lives working together in harmony.

**Do you think it is justified to call Whitman the “poet of the people”? Which people do you think he is associated with? Can he be considered the poet of all the people?**

**Last thing for today:**

**One word to describe the tone of the poem and one sentence explaining why.**

- **Figurative Language and Poetic Voice**
  - Notes
    - What is figurative language

- What is poetic voice

- Parallel voice

**Device chart/Worksheet :**

Device	Example	Purpose / Effect
<b>Repetition</b>	1. “Singing,” 2. “The...”	
<b>Cataloging</b>	List of workers (carpenter, mason, boatman...)	
<b>Imagery</b>	1. “Singing as he measures his plank...” 2. Your example:	
<b>Free Verse</b>	No rhyme, no set meter	
<b>Personification</b>	1. “Each singing what belongs to him or her...”	

	2. Your example (if any):	
<b>Tone</b>	Joyful, proud, energetic	
<b>Symbolism</b>	1. “Singing” = each person’s unique contribution 2. Your example:	
<b>Parallel Structure</b>	“The [worker] singing as...”	

