

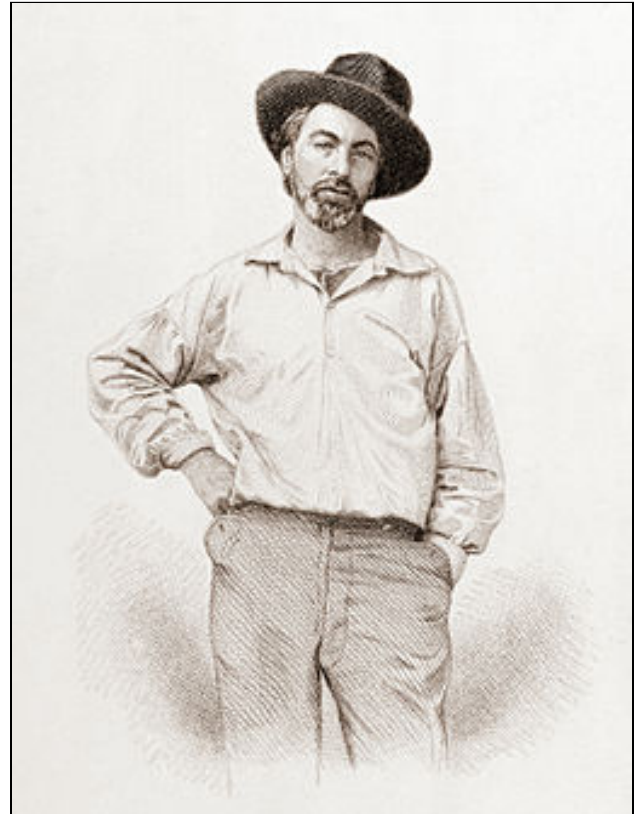
Name: _____ Class: _____

I Hear America Singing

By Walt Whitman
1855

Walt Whitman is a famous American poet, often called the father of "free verse," who wrote during the time of urbanization in America. As you read, consider the images in the poem and the effect they have on the mood.

- [1] I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it
should be blithe¹ and strong,
The carpenter singing his as he measures his
plank or beam,
The mason² singing his as he makes ready for
work, or leaves off work,
[5] The boatman singing what belongs to him in his
boat, the deckhand singing on the steamboat
deck,
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench,
the hatter singing as he stands,
The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's³ on his
way in the morning, or at noon intermission
or at sundown,
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the
young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or
washing,
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to
none else,
[10] The day what belongs to the day—at night the
party of young fellows, robust,⁴ friendly,
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious
songs.



"Walt Whitman Steel Engraving" by Samuel Hollyer (1826-1919) of a daguerreotype by Gabriel Harrison (1818-1902) is in the public domain.

I Hear America Singing by Walt Whitman is in the public domain.

1. **Blithe (adjective):** carefree, joyous
2. Someone who builds with stone
3. A boy who guides work animals across a farm, drawing a plough
4. **Robust (adjective):** strong and healthy; vigorous