

**Standards/Objectives**

**RL.11-12.9** Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics.

**Objective:** Define the major characteristics of American romanticism as used in works by the American poets Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Samuel Woodworth

**\*\*This assignment is Evidence #3 for the Unit 3 Poetry Quiz.\*\***

**Walt Whitman Poetry Comprehension Questions**

***\*\*Use your class notes for information about Transcendentalism as needed.\*\****

1. What types of people does Walt Whitman write about in “I Hear America Singing”? How does his choice of these categories of people represent the Romantic and Transcendentalist belief that every living thing – and every kind of human – is important and holy?
2. In “I Hear America Singing”, how does Walt Whitman show how people are different and yet all the same?
3. In “Song of Myself, #32”, why does Walt Whitman want to live with animals?
4. In “Song of Myself, #32”, what are Whitman’s complaints about human beings? He mentions at least six different problems. Please list them **in your own words**.
5. In “Song of Myself, #48”, Whitman says “And nothing, not God, is greater than one’s self is.” How does this line represent beliefs of the Transcendentalists?
6. Whitman writes, “...to glance with an eye or show a bean in its pod confounds the learning of all times.” What does he mean by this? (You may need to look up the words “confounds” and “learning” to get some help).
7. Whitman writes, “For I who am curious about each am not curious about God” and “I hear and behold God in every object.” How do both of these lines represent Transcendentalist thinking?
8. Analyze the last stanza of the poem. With your group, look for lines that represent Transcendentalist thinking. Using only evidence from the last stanza, explain how these lines prove that Whitman was a Transcendentalist.