

*Song of Myself: 1*

1. Reread lines 1-5 and analyze Whitman's style. What evidence leads you to believe this is written in Free Verse?

2. Explain how lines 1-3 establish the speaker not only as an individual, but also as a representative of others.

3. How does the line length in lines 6 and 7 help shape the meaning of the lines?

4. What is Whitman saying about traditional writing in the last stanza? What is his belief about the nature of art?

*Song of Myself: 6*

1. How does Whitman use figurative language in lines 1-11? How do the metaphors help shape the theme?

2. How does Whitman use repetition in lines 13-20? Explain how this ties into the theme.

3. In lines 25-32, where does Whitman abandon figurative language and speak more directly? How are these lines related to the rest of the poem?

4. How is the grass discussed in lines 8-11, 12-17, and 27-32? How does the child's question get answered in each section?

*Song of Myself: 33*

1. What is Whitman saying in lines 1-10 about adversity? How does the repetition support this view?

2. How does Whitman use repetition in the poem to reinforce his theme? How does he repeat words and images to support it?

3. Read lines 14-22; which senses does this imagery appeal to most? How does this relate to the slave?

4. What would you say is the theme of the poem? Support this with example from the text.

*Song of Myself: 52*

1. What does the hawk symbolize? How is this portrayed in the poem?

2. How do lines 4-8 create a feeling of motion and energy?

3. How do you think “barbaric yawp” relates to Whitman’s idea of individual expression in society?