

Walt Whitman, "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer" (M 333)

• **Applicable poetry terms:** (look up in *Bedford* Glossary)

allusion	alliteration	simile	allegory						
rhyme	connotation/denotation	* double meaning/double entendre						voice/persona	
controlling image, etc. ("conceit")	diction	sonnet							
enjambment	end-stop	scansion	meter	feet	caesura			*free verse	
explication/exposition	assonance	consonance							
hyperbole	imagery	motif/leitmotif	meiosis						

• **Voice/persona:**

Even if this is Whitman speaking as/for himself, what kind of *persona* does he adopt for this poem?

What does either Whitman or the persona sound like he's trying to do in this poem?

• **Dialogue/diction:**

What kind of argument does the voice/persona make here?

How does the voice/persona make his argument?

Does the voice/persona repeat words, phrases, or constructions to help make the argument or point?

What part does *sound* itself play in this poem?

What would you say is the poem's *tone*? On what evidence do you base this conclusion?

• **Figures of speech:**

Does the voice/persona use *simile* or *metaphor*? To what effect?

• **Meter/rhythm/sound:**

If this is "free verse" (look this up), how does *line length* play into how the poem works?

Does Whitman here make use of enjambment? To what effect?

What kind of *sound* does the voice/persona create, and how? (alliteration, assonance, consonance, sibilance, etc.)

• **Imagery/ Symbols/references/motifs/etc:**

What kind of imagery does the voice/persona use here?

Do any elements in the narrative work as controlling images? (*controlling image/conceit*)

• **Themes (what the poem is about):**