

Flat Sample 1: Section 1

Lecturer: The topic of today's lecture is Walt Whitman, an American poet and author of the renowned collection of poems, "Leaves of Grass." This volume of poems is a celebration of America, full of pride in the United States and reverence for the goals of American democracy. Whitman began writing "Leaves of Grass" in the middle of the 19th century and the 1st edition appeared in 1855 with only 12 poems. Several other editions of "Leaves of Grass" appeared throughout Whitman's lifetime with additional poems. "Leaves of Grass" grew and matured right along with Whitman. The longest and best known poem in "Leaves of Grass" is "Song of Myself", which appeared in the first edition. The poem, "When Lilacs and the Dooryard Bloom'd" was added to a later edition. This poem was written at the time of Abraham Lincoln's death in 1865 and contained Whitman's reflections on that event. Lincoln's death occurred in April in the spring, in a season of new life. This poem reflects that spring can be at the same time a period of death and a period of rebirth.

Flat Sample 1: Section 2

Woman: Do you have any plans this weekend?

Man: There's so much to choose from on campus that I'm not sure what I'm going to do.

Woman: The football game is on Saturday night and I'm going with a group of friends. Do you want to go with us?

Man: Of course, I'd like to go to the football game. It's the biggest game of the season and it sounds like fun to go with a large group of people.

Woman: Good. We'll be meeting at the cafeteria for dinner at 6 o'clock on Saturday night and then we'll go on to the game together.

Man: That takes care of my plans for Saturday night, but now I need to make a decision about Sunday afternoon. The music department is sponsoring a concert then and I'd really like to hear that concert, but there's also a play being presented by the drama department that I really wanted to see. It's too bad those two events are at the same time.

Woman: You know if you go to the game on Saturday night and a concert or play on Sunday, that doesn't leave much time for studying.

Man: Oh, well. Maybe I can do that the weekend after this one.