

Names: _____

Date: _____

“When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer”

By Walt Whitman

When I heard the **learn’d** astronomer,
When the **proofs**, the figures, were ranged in columns before me,
When I was shown the charts and diagrams, to add, divide, and measure them,
When I sitting heard the astronomer where he lectured with much applause in the lecture-room,
How soon unaccountable I became tired and sick,
Till rising and gliding out I wander’d off by myself,
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,
Look’d up in perfect silence at the stars.

1. **Define** the words listed below.

Respond to the following in **complete sentences**:

2. Describe Whitman’s use of **parallel structure**. What effect does it have on the poem?
Use at least one quote from the text.
3. What is the **setting** at the start of the poem? What is the speaker doing and how does he feel? Where does he go and why?
4. Describe at least one **romantic theme** present in the poem. **Use at least one quote from the text.**
5. What **statement** does this poem make? (eg. about knowledge, nature, feeling, etc.)

Learned (adj)-

Proofs (n)-

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“On The Beach At Night Alone”

By Walt Whitman

On the beach at night alone,
As the old mother sways her to and fro, singing her **husky** song,
As I watch the bright stars shining, I think a thought of the clef of the universes, and of the future.

A vast **similitude** interlocks all,
All spheres, grown, ungrown, small, large, suns, moons, planets
All distances of place however wide,
All distances of time, all inanimate forms,
All souls, all living bodies, though they be ever so different, or in different worlds,
All gaseous, watery, vegetable, mineral processes, the fishes, the brutes,
All nations, colors, **barbarisms**, civilizations, languages,
All identities that have existed, or may exist, on this globe, or any globe,
All lives and deaths, all of the past, present, future,
This vast similitude **spans** them, and always has spann'd,
And shall forever span them and compactly hold and enclose them.

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1. **Define** the words listed below.

Respond to the following in **complete sentences**:

2. Describe Whitman's use of **parallel structure**. What effect does it have on the poem?
Use at least one quote from the text.
3. What is the **setting** of the poem? What realization does the speaker have in the last line?
4. Describe at least one **romantic theme** present in the poem. **Use at least one quote from the text.**

Husky (adj)-
Similitude (n)-
Barbarisms (n)-
Spans (v)-

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“When I Heard at the Close of the Day”

By Walt Whitman

When I heard at the close of the day how my name had been receiv'd with **plaudits** in the capitol, still it was not a happy night for me that follow'd,
And else when I **carous'd**, or when my plans were accomplish'd, still I was not happy,
But the day when I rose at dawn from the bed of perfect health, refresh'd, singing, inhaling the ripe breath of autumn,
When I saw the full moon in the west grow pale and disappear in the morning light,
When I wander'd alone over the beach, and undressing bathed, laughing with the cool waters, and saw the sun rise,
And when I thought how my dear friend my lover was on his way coming, O then I was happy, O then each breath tasted sweeter, and all that day my food nourish'd me more, and the beautiful day pass'd well,
And the next came with equal joy, and with the next at evening came my friend,
And that night while all was still I heard the waters roll slowly continually up the shores, I heard the hissing rustle of the liquid and sands as directed to me whispering to congratulate me, For the one I love most lay sleeping by me under the same cover in the cool night,
In the stillness in the autumn moonbeams his face was inclined toward me,
And his arm lay lightly around my breast – and that night I was happy.

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1. **Define** the words listed in the footnotes below.

Respond to the following in **complete sentences**:

2. What happens at the start of the poem? How does the speaker feel? What changes for the speaker in the second half of the poem? **Use at least two quotes from the text.**
3. Describe at least one example of Whitman's use of **parallel structure**. What effect does it create? **Use at least one quote from the text.**
4. Describe at least one **romantic theme** present in the poem. **Use at least one quote from the text.**

Plaudits (n)

Caroused (v)

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“Song of Myself, 11”

By Walt Whitman

Twenty-eight young men bathe by the shore,
Twenty-eight young men and all so friendly;
Twenty-eight years of womanly life and all so
lonesome.

She owns the fine house by the rise of the bank,
She hides handsome and richly drest aft the
blinds of the window.

Which of the young men does she like the best?
Ah the **homeliest** of them is beautiful to her.

Where are you off to, lady? for I see you,
You splash in the water there, yet stay stock still
in your room.

Dancing and laughing along the beach came the
twenty-ninth bather,

The rest did not see her, but she saw them and
loved them.

The beards of the young men glisten'd with wet,
it ran from their long hair,
Little streams pass'd all over their bodies.

An unseen hand also pass'd over their bodies,
It descended tremblingly from their temples and
ribs.

The young men float on their backs, their white
bellies bulge to the sun, they do not ask who
seizes fast to them,
They do not know who puffs and declines with
pendant and bending arch,
They do not think whom they **souse** with spray.

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1. **Define** the words below.

Homeliest (adj)-

Seizes (v)-

Souse (v)-

Respond to the following in **complete sentences**:

2. Describe at least one example of Whitman's use of **parallel structure**. What effect does it create? **Use at least one quote from the text.**

3. Describe at least one **romantic theme** present in the poem. **Use at least one quote from the text.**

4. What is the speaker's **tone** toward the woman watching? What is her story?