

Listening Guide- *Leaves of Grass*-Walt Whitman

Episode 1

“The Poetry of Young America!”

1. People love his writing and always have, but he’s also very _____ - and he offends equally.
2. “I am large; I contains _____.”
3. “I hear _____ singing, the varied carols I hear”
4. America is singing _____, those are happy songs, not dirges, and the song of the American is the song of hard work.
5. The poem is a complete refutation of the English _____ system and that’s what Northerners loved about it.
6. One thing that baffles and almost offends most academics is Whitman’s absolute nothing of an _____ background.
7. He spent the first 36 years of his life walking around and observing life, most of it in _____ and Long Island.
8. I heard one lecturer say that he was the first non-_____ poet.
9. I also want to point out that it was this desire to self-educate that led him, like many of his day, to be influenced and challenged by the great Ralph Waldo _____.
10. In _____, something great happened: Whitman self-published the book *Leaves of Grass*.
11. “_____, an American, one of the roughs, a kosmos.”
12. He printed _____ copies and sold almost none of them.
13. “I am not blind to the worth of the wonderful gift of *Leaves of Grass*. I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and _____ that America has yet contributed.”
14. “I, now _____ years old in perfect health begin, hoping to cease not till death.”

15. But what is obvious is that there is no _____ or meter of any kind and there isn't supposed to be.
16. Every stanza is a single _____, and he is going to do that through the entire poem.
17. "I celebrate myself- not because I'm so important- not because I have all this amazing heritage or skill or anything- I celebrate myself because I have an essence that is 100% _____ to me."
18. Whitman was the very opposite of _____; he was an extremely physical hard worker.
19. "I _____ and invite my soul."
20. He believes in _____ although he didn't know we renamed it: loafe was his concept for that, his word for that, chill out.
21. "I harbor for good or bad, I permit to speak at every _____, nature without check with original energy."
22. _____ not with others, but with yourself.
23. For him _____ and the physical body had a self-evident important place in our lives and had to be brought out in the open in order for it not to be a hazard.
24. "A child said, *what is the* _____?"
25. When Whitman loafs around and stares at grass, he sees a picture of _____.
26. He says, look, every single blade of grass is totally different and yet in some sense the same. He calls it a uniform _____.
27. He absolutely spoke of diversity, but he did not celebrate diversity, not like we think of doing that today, he celebrates _____.
28. But during his lifetime, he would see _____ of America's population die killing each other.
29. "The past and present _____—I have fill'd them, emptied them."
30. "Do I _____ myself? Very well then I contradict myself."