

Listening Guide- Episode 2-

Leaves of Grass- Walt Whitman “The Moving Elegies for Abraham Lincoln”

1. “A _____ body at auction, She too is not only herself, she is the teeming mother of mothers,”
2. Whitman was raised a New York democrat, but his sympathies were later on with the Free-Soil party that condemned the extension of _____ as a sin against God and a crime against man.
3. Well for Whitman it was just undeniable for anyone with eyeballs that all men are born _____ and that implies certain things regardless of if they are born free or slave- of any race, creed or gender.
4. Whitman was the poet of the democratic _____.
5. For Whitman, to be a human was to understand and be okay with one’s physical _____ and see that it’s a holy thing.
6. One of my favorite historical psychopaths, John Brown, is one notable example you know. In an attempt to free slaves through _____ he and a small gang stormed Harper’s Ferry.
7. “The irrepressible conflict is about to be vised upon us through the _____ Republican nominee and his fanatical diabolical Republican party.”
8. He really believed that Lincoln was going to bring healing and unity through _____.
9. Lincoln wanted first and foremost to be a _____.
10. Lincoln later recalled that the reason his father left _____ and the South was because of his strong feelings about slavery.
11. It’s a strange idea to assert that a person could believe something is _____ wrong and then believe it so strongly that they would be willing to lead a nation to war to end it, but simultaneously judge the perpetrators of this evil redeemable as human.
12. Whitman didn’t fight in the _____ War, but his brother George did.
13. The first shots of the _____ were fired by the South on Fort Sumter in Charleston, SC, in April of 1861.

14. Documentation now reveals that he spent time with somewhere between 80 and 100,000

_____.

15. “Among the black soldiers, wounded or sick, and in the _____ camps, I also took my way whenever in their neighborhood, and did what I could for them.”

16. Abraham Lincoln stated that during those days, “If there is a worse place than _____, I am in it.”

17. Lincoln saw himself on a _____ and going too far one way or the other would make the entire thing collapse.

18. Lincoln always acted with an informed, central _____.

19. “I am naturally anti-slavery. If _____ is not wrong; nothing is wrong. I cannot remember when I did not think so and feel so.”

20. On April 11, what we know now was to be his last speech, Lincoln called for black _____.

21. “I really knew nothing of what had occurred until Mrs. Lincoln leaned out of the box and cried, ‘The President is _____!’”

22. Whitman used Doyle’s account to help pen the only poem that I know of where Whitman used traditional poetic forms. It is an _____ for the death of Abraham Lincoln, titled “O Captain! My Captain!”

23. In “O Captain! My Captain!”, Whitman takes on the persona of a _____, a sailor.

24. “O Captain! My Captain! our fearful trip is done, The _____ has weather’d every rack, the prize we sought is won,”

25. Whitman, the defender of the _____ man, never elevates one person over another in any of his poems except for here: for Lincoln, he’ll make a notable exception.

26. On _____, President Lincoln together with his ten-year-old son, Tad, walked through the streets of Richmond and into Jefferson Davis’ office.

27. “O powerful western fallen _____!”

28. The star is obviously a symbol for _____.

29. The procession described in this poem where the casket was taken from Washington DC back to _____ was something that had never happened in the history of the United States and has not happened since.

30. “We use you, and do not cast you aside—we _____ you permanently within us...”