

“I Hear America Singing” by Walt Whitman  
Hawk Highflyer (LZ 2.34)

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,  
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,  
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,  
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,  
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deckhand singing on the steamboat deck,  
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands,  
The wood-cutter’s song, the ploughboy’s on his way in the morning, or at noon intermission or at sundown,  
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or washing,  
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,  
The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,  
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PRINT OR TURN IN THESE ANNOTATIONS; HOWEVER,  
THE GUIDED QUESTIONS AND ANNOTATIONS BELOW WILL HELP YOU ON YOUR FORM  
SUBMISSION.

#### Analysis and Annotations

1. What type of people does Whitman celebrate? CIRCLE the evidence that proves your claims.
2. What is the tone of this poem? Write at least TWO tone words.
3. **Highlight** or underline three words or phrases in the poem that help you prove your choice of tone.
4. What does the line “Each Singing what belongs to him or her and to none else” suggest about people and their individuality?
5. What does the poem imply about being content in one’s own situation? Zig Zag Underline the evidence that helps you prove your claims.
6. What is the central idea of the poem?
7. How does the central idea relate to the American Dream? Explain.