

Name: _____

"Song of Myself" Breakdown

SECTION 1

In section 1, the speaker declares his goal to "sing myself" and to celebrate his relationship with the reader.

1. What does the speaker mean in line 3: "For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you"? What does this suggest about the speaker's view of humanity and society?
2. The speaker seems to suggest a link between all humans and the earth. What are some things that tie humans and the earth together? Refer to the third stanza, lines 6-9.
3. What the speaker saying in lines 10-13 about his past learning and his future?
4. Find one line from this section that best captures the overall feeling and message of the section as a whole.

SECTION 6

In section 6, the speaker ponders the grass as a symbol of regeneration.

1. The speaker ponders several answers to the question, "What is the grass?" List four of these answers.
2. In your own words, explain what the speaker means in lines 23-25.
3. What is one example of anaphora in this section? What detail(s) might Whitman have wanted to emphasize in using anaphora?
4. What does the speaker suggest about death in this section? Refer to the last two stanzas.

SECTION 52

In section 52, the speaker asserts his independence and the authenticity of his poetic voice, even as he leaves the reader.

1. In what ways is the speaker like the "spotted hawk" that swoops by?
 2. What might the speaker mean in line 54: "I bequeath myself to the dirt to grow from the grass I love"?
 3. What do you think the last line of the poem means? What tone does this line put forth?
 4. Find one example of alliteration or consonance in this section.
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Song of _____
Inspired by "Song of Myself" by Walt Whitman

I am _____ and _____, of the _____ as much as the _____,
Regardless of _____, ever regardful of _____,
_____ as well as _____, a _____ as well as a _____,
Stuff'd with the stuff that is _____ and stuff'd with the stuff that is _____,
One of the Nation of many nations, the _____ the same and the _____ the same,
A _____ soon as a _____, a planter nonchalant and hospitable down by the Oconee I live
A Yankee bound my way ready for trade, my joints the limberest joints on earth and the sternest joints on
earth,
A Kentuckian walking the vale of the Elkhorn in my deer-skin leggings, a Louisianian or Georgian,
A boatman over lakes or bays or along coasts, a Hoosier, Badger, Buckeye;
At home on Kanadian snow-shoes or up in the bush, or with fishermen off Newfoundland,
At home in the fleet of ice-boats, sailing with the rest of tacking,
At home on the hills of Vermont or in the woods of Maine, or the Texan ranch,
Comrade of Californians, comrade of free North-Westerners, (loving their big proportions,)
Comrade of raftsmen and coalmen, comrade of all who shake hands and welcome to drink and meat,
A learner with the simplest, a teacher of the thoughtfulest,
A novice beginning yet experient of myriads of seasons,
Of every hue and caste am I, of every rank and religion,
A _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

I resist any thing better than my own diversity,
Breathe the air but leave plenty after me,
And am not stuck up, and am in my place.

(The moth and the fish-eggs are in their place,
The bright suns I see and the dark suns I cannot see are in their place,

The palpable is in its place and the impalpable is in its place.)