



Name\_\_\_\_\_

### Whitman Poetry, Day One

#### "I Hear America Singing"

1. What occupations does the speaker say represent America? Name as many as you can find. What do these occupations suggest about Whitman's view of his country?

2. How does this poem relate to the American ideal of diversity?

3. This poem has been criticized for being too optimistic (positive-thinking). What about this poem is optimistic? Do you agree that it is "too" optimistic, or do you think this viewpoint is reasonable?

#### "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer"

4. What techniques does the astronomer use to present information? What does this suggest about the astronomer's approach to his subject?

5. How does the speaker's method for "studying" the stars differ from the astronomer's method?

6. In what situations should people behave like the astronomer? And in what situations should people behave like the speaker?

7. Which attitude, the astronomer's or the speaker's, do you think is more necessary to achieve success in life?