

“O Captain! My Captain!”



AN ELEGY FOR PRESIDENT LINCOLN



Review



Let's learn a little more about Abraham Lincoln and his impact on our country.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B73vkTeL](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B73vkTeLg)

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More Review



What do you remember about Abraham Lincoln from our class discussion, the reading of his biography, and the short film biography?

List five specific things in your notes.

Poem Genre: Elegy



A elegy is a mournful or melancholy poem, usually written as a funeral sermon or to honor the dead.

Walt Whitman, a famous American poet, wrote this poem about Abraham Lincoln shortly after his assassination. Whitman wanted to capture the sense of tragedy that suddenly overwhelmed the nation.



Essential Question #1



How do writers use poetry to teach us about history and past acts of American patriotism?

After we read the poem, be prepared to answer this essential question.

Lincoln's Death



- He was assassinated on April 14, 1865, only five days after the end of the Civil War.
- It was the first murder of a president in the history of the United States.
- What might have happened if Lincoln was not assassinated?

Create a WordSplash



On a sheet of notebook paper, list any words that relate to “captain.” Think of the qualities of a captain or something specific related to the definition—NOT specific people or characters.

List a least eight (8) words in your notes.

Essential Question #2



What can we learn from extended metaphors in poetry?

Extended metaphors compare two people, places, or things at some length and in several ways without using *like* or *as*. We learn more about a subject and understand it better when it is compared to something else.

In this poem, Whitman compares Lincoln to the captain of a ship.

Analyzing the Extended Metaphor



Copy the following chart into your notes and be prepared to complete it after the reading of the poem:

Example from poem--	Meaning--
Captain	
Fearful trip	
Ship	
Storm (rack)	
Prize	

Analyzing the Elements of Poetry



Now, copy the poetry element chart into your notes. Find a specific example of each literary device and write the example and line number in your notes.

Poetry Device	Line #(s)	Specific Example
Slant rhyme		
Internal rhyme		
Repetition		
Alliteration		
Onomatopoeia		
Personification		

Final Thoughts



Go back to the beginning of your notes and take a moment to answer the first essential question.

Be sure to discuss the concept of patriotism and think about how Abraham Lincoln could be called a patriot.

Ticket Out the Door--Absent Student Letter



Dear Absent Student:

Today, we learned about _____.

The most important thing we learned was _____.

You really would have enjoyed _____.

My favorite part of the lesson was _____.

Sincerely,