

Name: _____

Date: _____

"O Captain! My Captain!" by Walt Whitman

Guided Notes – Lesson 2

How does the author's use of repetition throughout the poem influence the reader's impression of the return?

Objective: In this lesson you will learn how to clarify your impression of the text by analyzing the author's use of repetition.

Steps:

1. Highlight the repetition
2. Ask, "Why did the author choose to repeat these words?"
3. Ask, "What impression do these make?"

O Captain! My Captain!- Look at one stanza at a time:

1. Highlight the repetition

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won,
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;
But O heart! heart! heart! 5
O the bleeding drops of red,
Where on the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills, 10
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding,
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;
Here Captain! dear father!
This arm beneath your head!
It is some dream that on the deck, 15
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won; 20
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!
But I with mournful tread,
Walk the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead. 25

2. Ask, "Why did the author choose to repeat these words?"

(Record the repeated words in the top, and notes on why the author repeated those words below)

3. Ask, "What impression do these make?"

(Look at your notes above. Draw conclusions based on those notes in the box below.)

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Your Turn!

How does the author's use of repetition throughout the poem influence the reader's impression of the narrator?

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O Captain! My Captain!- Look at one stanza at a time:

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(turn over)

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