

Name: _____

Date: _____

"O Captain! My Captain!" by Walt Whitman

Guided Notes – Lesson 4

How does the author reveal his message through the Captain's relationships?

Objective: *In this lesson you will learn how to analyze the meaning of a text by comparing different characters' points of view.*

Steps:

1. Identify each character's point of view on the situation in the text
2. Ask, "How do the characters' points of view compare?"
3. Ask, "How do the characters' points of view impact the meaning of the text?"

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

1. Identify each character's point of view on the situation in the text
(Take notes in the margin or in the Step 2 chart.)

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, "How do the characters' points of view compare?"

<i>Crowd</i>	<i>Narrator</i>

3. Ask, "How do the characters' points of view impact the meaning of the text?"
(Consider what would be missing without each characters' point of view.)

<i>Crowd</i>	<i>Narrator</i>