

“I Hear America Singing” Lesson: 45 min

Note: We’re going to work through some of what Burke talks about in *Reminders* today—using Whitman as a way in.

Goal: To introduce students to Whitman’s work and get them to begin thinking about what might make American Literature unique.

Objectives:

- **TSW** contribute to a board based clustering exercise, so as to think about what the poem might mean.
- **TSW** identify a line, image, or word in the poem that matters to him or her and be able to explain it to the members of their triad.
- **TSW** write a poem about “America.”

Procedures:

- A. Take Roll (3-5 min)
- B. Set: What is America? A word association game. (5 min)
- C. Clustering Activity (5 min)
- D. Read Poem Aloud (5 min)
- E. Identify, in groups, a line, image, or word that you really understand and speaks to you. (10 min)
- F. Report: (5 min)
- G. Read the Poem Again (5 min)
- H. Find the Crucial Moment (5 min)
- I. Homework: Write your own poem about “America”

Assessment:

- **Informal Assessment:** Board work of students. Group work, using the worksheet.
- **Formal Assessment:** Creation of a poem about America that uses ideas, words, or images taken from Whitman’s work.

Homework: Create a poem in which you write about what you think “America” is. Allow your opinions and beliefs to be your guides, and realize that there are only two requirements for this poem: that it be 6 or more lines, and that you, somewhere, take an idea, line, image, or word from Whitman and incorporate it into your poem. **This assignment is due tomorrow, and will count for one quiz grade.**