

**PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / Lyric**Date 9/28/13Title "O Captain! My Captain!"Author / Director / Walt Whitman**Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)**

Found on Shmoop.com, read aloud in Mr. O'Connor's class last year

**Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc? )**

This poem describes a man who is a member of the crew on a ship mourning his dead captain after long journey. They have finally completed their mission, but the captain did not live to see it. He died fighting for his crew and for his ship. He is a martyr for his job. Martyrs usually die poetically with a few exceptions where the martyr's cause is immoral. In this case, the cause is good, and the captain dies fighting for what he believes in.

**Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?**

Most of us have idols in our lives, and we adore them for their good deeds. We aspire to be just like them, and we want to stand by them one day as we fight for what is right. We use idols as something to live up to, as a goal in life. These people help us to achieve the greatest amount we are capable of. This poem wants us to realize who these people are in our lives and cherish them and observe them as long as we can. When that day comes where they pass away, hopefully we have learned enough from them to continue their legacy.

**Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)**

The poem is broken down into 3 stanzas comprised of couplets of rhyming lines. Each stanza ends in with a line having to do with the captain "fallen cold and dead." The whole poem is a reference to the assassination of president Abraham Lincoln. The poem is a symbol for how great victories cannot occur without great sacrifice.

**Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?**

I like this poem for many reasons. I love the allusion to Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Lincoln was an inspiring leader, and I love how he fought for justice. I appreciate everything he did for our nation. Obviously I am not glad that he was assassinated, but it brought people together. Lincoln became a martyr for freedom and justice. I also like how the poem is able to rhyme yet still put forward a strong message. Overall, this poem pleases me very much.