

Using a Secondary Resource

Read Ella Reeve Bloor's piece, "Bloor Remembers Whitman," aloud to the class, stopping to discuss each paragraph. After, ask students to discuss the following questions with a partner. Following, hold a whole-class discussion of the questions.

1. Why do you think Whitman was called "The Good Gray Poet?"
2. Why do you believe Whitman was the "honored guest of all the ferry hands?" What does that tell about him?
3. What does the author mean by "the joy of watching people?" Is this a joy you share with her? Why or why not?
4. Whitman wrote to his caretaker, Horace Traubel, "Be sure and always tell the truth." Do you believe this is good advice? Why or why not?
5. According to the author, what are some of the things that Whitman valued?
6. What kind of effect did Whitman have on those who knew him well?