

Name: _____ Date: _____

EXPLORING THE WRITING PROCESS WITH PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS



Lesson Topic: Publishing

Primary Source:

Walt Whitman Papers in the Charles E. Feinberg Collection: Literary File, -1919; Books, 1855 to 1919; Leaves of Grass; 1891 to 1892 edition; Proofs; Proof sheets with corrections and notations. - 1919, 1841. Manuscript/Mixed Material.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/mss1863000515/>.

Directions: Use the primary source above to complete the activity on the following pages.

Activity: You will use Walt Whitman's publishing proofs to better understand Whitman's relationship with the publishing process. Answer the following questions.

1. Examine the folder in image one. What can you learn about the work from looking at this folder? What is included? How has this work been categorized?

2. Image number two shows Walt Whitman's remarks to the publisher. How do these notes demonstrate Whitman's intentions and wishes? What is important to Whitman?

3. In images four and five, Whitman includes a verse on the title page. What does Whitman hope to achieve by adding this verse? Think about the verse in the context of this being his "deathbed edition".

4. Read and examine image six. What would Whitman have published so many different editions? What does this choice say about the relationship between an author and their published work?

5. Look through a few more of the images in this set. Choose one that you feel makes an important statement about the process of publishing or the relationship between an author and their reader. State which image you chose and support your choice with reasons and examples.