

Name: _____ Date: _____

EXPLORING THE WRITING PROCESS WITH PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS



Lesson Topic: Drafting - Mood in Poetry

Primary Source: *Letter and corrected reprint of Walt Whitman's "O Captain, My Captain" with comments by author, 9 February.* 9 February, 1888. Manuscript/Mixed Material. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mcc.055/>.

Directions: Study the primary source and answer the following questions. Be sure to include evidence from the text that supports your analysis and thinking.

What is the mood in the first four lines of stanza 1?

Does the mood change in the last four lines of stanza 1? If so, how?

What strategies does the poet use to achieve this shift?

How does the revision of the line “Leave you not the little spot” to “o the bleeding drops of red” affect the mood of the poem?

What is the mood in the first four lines of stanza 2?

What does the poet accomplish with the revision of “I push beneath you” to “beneath your head” at the end of stanza 2?

What is the mood in the first four lines of stanza 3?

How does the revision from “safe” to “safe and sound” affect the mood of the poem?

Why does the poet repeat the phrase “you’ve fallen cold and dead”? How does this phrase contribute to the overall mood of the poem?