

About Walt Whitman

Walt Whitman was the first unique voice in poetry in the United States.

Whitman was born on _____, to a working class family in West Hills, New York. He was part of the first generation of Americans born in a free country. His father was a _____ and a _____.

When Walt was almost 4 years old, his family moved to _____. Whitman's finished his formal education by age _____. But he continued to learn by reading, visiting museums, and talking and debating with everyone he met.

When Whitman was _____ years old, he became an apprentice to a _____. He was soon seeing his own words in print. The newspaper was called the *Long Island Patriot*. Whitman worked as a printer until he was 17. He then began _____. Between school terms, he spent his time reading and writing.

In 1846, Whitman became the _____ of the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. He left in 1848 when he disagreed with the owner's _____. For the next year, he published his own newspaper. There he could express his opinions freely, including his opposition to _____. The newspaper was called _____. He then took a job with a newspaper in _____. It was the first time he had been out of New York City. He traveled by train,

steamboat, and stagecoach. Although the job did not last long, it gave him an opportunity to see more of the United States and its diversity.

In 1855, Whitman published a book of poems called _____ - _____ . The poems did not have a regular _____ . Although the first edition was not popular with readers, the book became Whitman's lifework. He issued new editions throughout his life as new poems were added. The poems focus on the beauty of nature, the beauty of human beings, the force of _____ , and the value of _____ .

Whitman's younger brother George was a soldier in the _____ . When he was wounded, Whitman went to Virginia to take care of him. Whitman was moved by the struggles of the other wounded young men. After George returned to battle, Whitman continued to work as a volunteer _____ in the army hospitals in Washington, D.C. He wrote and published poems about the war, entitled _____ (1865). These poems also became part of *Leaves of Grass*.

In 1873, Whitman had a stroke. He moved to _____ to stay with George and released several more editions of *Leaves of Grass*. Walt Whitman died on March 26, 1892.