



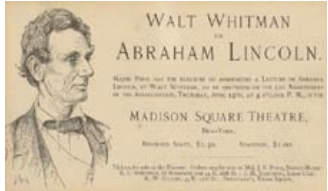




Book Backdrops: Connecting Literature and Primary Sources

	<p>TITLE OF BOOK: When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer</p> <p>AUTHOR: Walt Whitman, pictures: Lauren Long</p> <p>GRADE LEVEL: K-4</p> <p>TOPIC/THEME: Walt Whitman published his poems in volumes called "Leaves of Grass". This poem is one of inquiry and interest in the night sky. In this book the poem is placed in a more modern setting of a little boy who becomes distracted at a lecture he is attending with his parents and wonders off to wonder at the night sky. Poems about the wonders of nature helped soothe a nation after the Civil War.</p>
<p>Primary Source Thumbnail</p>	<p>Library of Congress Bibliographic Information and Connections to Literature</p>
	<p>Title: [Walt Whitman, half-length portrait, seated, facing left, wearing hat and sweater, holding butterfly], Date Created/Published: [between 1892 and 1910], Medium: 1 photomechanical print: Halftone</p> <p>URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/00650594/</p> <p>Connection: A photo of the author that shows his tendency towards curiosity like the boy in the story.</p>
	<p>Title: Walking stick inscribed "To Walt Whitman, 'A Calamus,' From John Burroughs"</p> <p>URL: http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/images/ww0046p1s.jpg</p> <p>Connection: Did Whitman use this walking stick on his hikes to view the night sky?</p>
<p>Exhibit of Walt Whitman's development of Leaves of Grass series (Secondary Source)</p>	<p>Title: exhibit area "Leaves of Grass"</p> <p>URL: http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/whitman-leavesofgrass.html</p> <p>Connection: The 1881-1882 edition of these books</p>



<p>Mars video update 03/17/2010 RUNNING TIME: 62 minutes</p>	<p>contains the first publication of this poem.</p> <p>Title: Mars Update: James Garvin URL: http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=4958 Connection: What is actually happening up in the night sky and beyond?</p>
	<p>Title: Boston Theater URL: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=pphphoto&fileName=ma/ma0400/ma0460/photos/browse.db&action=browse&recNum=0&title2=B.%20F.%20Keith%20Memorial%20Theatre,%20539%20Washington%20Street,%20Boston,%20Suffolk,%20MA&displayType=1 Connection: A theater like the one in the book in the town where Whitman wrote this poem.</p>
	<p>Title: Another poem that refers to the night sky URL: http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/images/ww0031s.jpg Connection: Another of Whitman's poem that refers to the night sky, but relates to the death from the Civil War and the healing of the nation.</p>
	<p>Title: A ticket to a oration by Whitman on the death of one of his heroes, Abraham Lincoln. URL: http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/images/ww0034bs.jpg Connection: Walt Whitman lived through the Civil War and wrote many accounts of the heroism and suffering that the soldiers had endured. He especially admired A. Lincoln and as a tribute to his accomplishments, Whitman hosted programs like this one.</p>

Activity developed by Gay Thistle, adapted from professional development activity created by Gail Petri, Educational Resource Specialist, Library of Congress.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/tpsdirect/pdplanbuilder/>