

Walt Whitman



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Lesson Overview:

Students will begin their study of Walt Whitman by examining images from the Library of Congress. They will also learn about Walt Whitman and the period in history, in which he lived. Students will write their own poetry and publish it in a creative media.

Objectives:

- To explore the poetry of Walt Whitman
- To identify the time period of his work
- To publish one's own poem in a creative media

Recommended Grade Level:

7-8

Topic:

Language Arts and Visual Arts Classroom – Poetry of Walt Whitman
Creative media

Format of Primary Sources Used:

- Historical photographs

Standards Addressed:

2.A.3c.: Read and understand literature representative of various societies, eras, and ideas. Understand how literary elements and techniques are used to convey meaning. Identify characteristics and authors of various forms

3.C.3a: Communicate ideas in writing to accomplish a variety of purposes. Compose narrative, informative, and persuasive writings for specific audiences.

Preparation:

Materials Used:

- Student Text: *The Language of Literature*
- Copies of images from the Library of Congress Web site; www.loc.gov (See Attachment A)

Procedure:

- Display photograph of Walt Whitman
- Play 20 questions to guess who is featured in the photograph

- Introduce poem “O Captain! My Captain!”
- Read poem and discuss; make sure historical context is included.
- Go back to poem and discuss butterfly
- Introduce creative media (See Appendix B)
- Students create their own poems and publish on a background.

Assessment:

Students will use Y pie self-evaluation, which contains the following questions in a three-piece pie chart.

- 1) What I liked about the draft:
- 2) To improve this I could:
- 3) What I still need to do or change:

Class assessment will be done through oral presentations and “cruise control.”

Appendix A:





*
THE FIRST BEGOTTEN
OF THE DEAD
FOR US HE ROSE, OUR
GLORIOUS HEAD,
IMMORTAL LIFE
TO BRING.
*
W. & CO.

*
WHAT THOUGH THE SAINTS
LIKE HIM SHALL DIE,
THEY SHARE THEIR
LEADER'S VICTORY,
AND TRIUMPH WITH
THEIR KING.
JOHN MASON NEALE
*

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P&P Online
Catalog Start

[Bibliographic
Information](#)

Digital ID: cph 3b24247 **Source:** b&w film copy neg.

Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-77082 (b&w film copy neg.)

Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540
USA

[Retrieve uncompressed archival TIFF version](#) (1,534 kilobytes)





Poet at Work: Walt Whitman Notebooks 1850s -1860s

The Library of Congress > American Memory Home > Browse Collections > Collection Home

LC #220 Whitman's Cardboard Butterfly

KEY: [+](#) Enlarge Image



[+](#) Top of butterfly



[+](#) Bottom of butterfly

Appendix B:

As both an art and literature teacher, I would include an origami book as the culminating activity for this lesson. The students would use the book to publish their own works, as well as copies of poetry they have studied and enjoyed. We would then share our books and self-evaluate.

The instructions for the creation of the origami book follow. There are multiple uses for this book. Have fun!

What we need

6 - 10 sheets of colored copier paper (8 ½ by 11)

Scissors

Glue stick

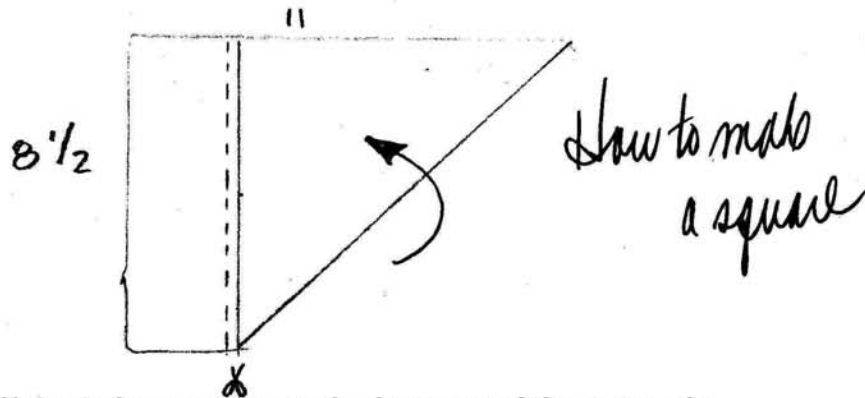
Two pieces of cardboard (4 ½ by 4 ½)

Two sheets of decorated paper for covers (6 by 6)

One piece of flat ribbon (2 feet long)

How to make a square paper

Square a sheet of paper by folding as shown in the figure:



Cut off the leftover across the bottom of the triangle.

How to fold the sheets

Fold the paper by diagonal. Open



Fold paper by half. Open



Fold paper by the other half. Open



Your paper now, will show 4 squares, two with diagonal creases and two without.

Turn over the paper

Push the two diagonals toward the center

You will be able to flatten the plain squares over the creases

Practice the folding 6 -10 times, as much pages you want.

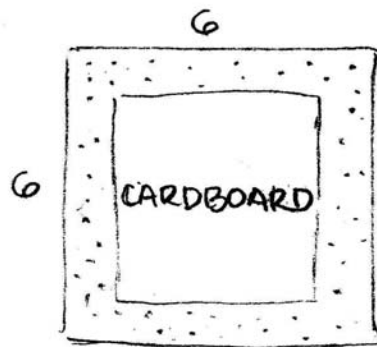
Your figure will look like diamond. You will have an open and a close part.

Glue the entire diamond figure exactly on top of the other.
ALWAYS with the edges in the same position

Glue all the pages and let it dry

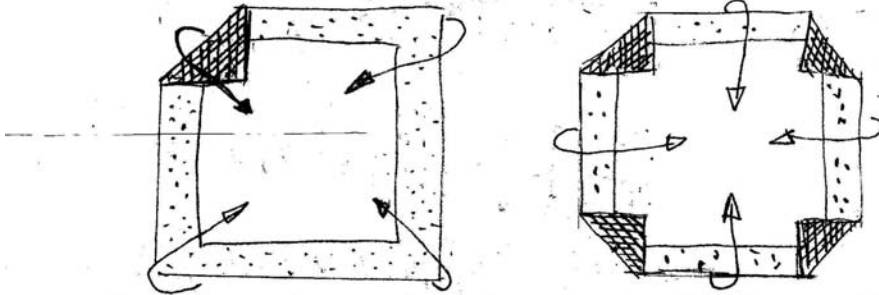
How to make the covers

Glue the cardboard in the center of the decorated paper placed with color down.



cardboard
4 1/2" square
paper to fold over
6" x 6"

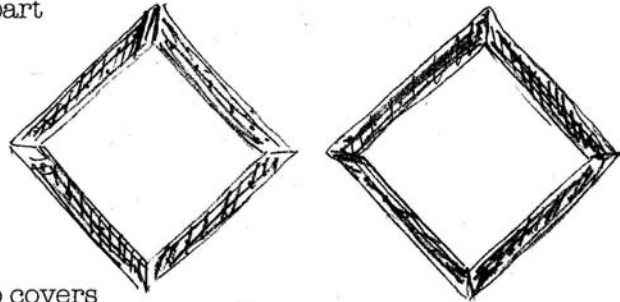
Fold the 4 corners toward ,the center of the cardboard and glue



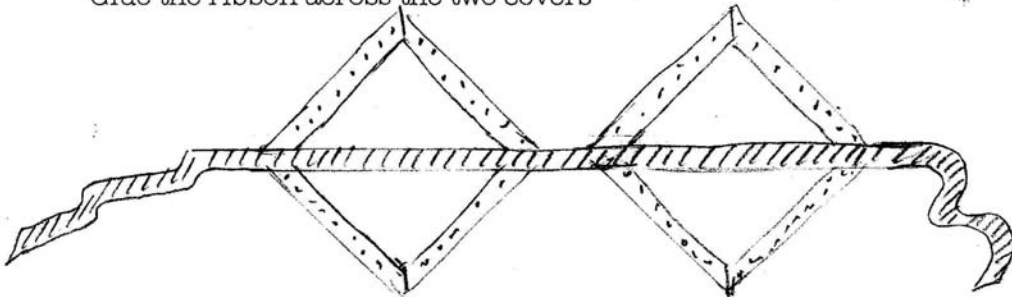
First, glue each corner and then, glue the side edges until it touch the cardboard

You will need to do the same with the other cover

Place the two covers $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart



Glue the ribbon across the two covers



Glue the top sheet in the cover with the stack of pages

Glue the back sheet to the other cover