

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis

Crossing Brooklyn Ferry: A Literary Analysis Delving into Whitman's Masterpiece

Introduction:

Walt Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" is more than just a poem; it's a transcendental meditation on time, connection, and the enduring human spirit. This poem, brimming with vivid imagery and powerful symbolism, invites multiple interpretations. This in-depth literary analysis will dissect its core themes, explore its structural brilliance, and delve into the stylistic choices that elevate it to a masterpiece of American literature. We'll uncover the poem's enduring relevance and its continued power to resonate with readers across generations. Prepare to embark on a journey across the Brooklyn Ferry of meaning and experience.

I. The Power of Collective Humanity: A Shared Journey Across Time

Whitman masterfully utilizes the seemingly simple act of crossing the Brooklyn Ferry as a metaphor for the shared human experience across time. The poem's strength lies in its ability to transcend the immediate physical journey, connecting the speaker's present moment to the past, present, and future of humanity. He establishes a powerful sense of collective identity by directly addressing future readers ("You, whoever you are"). This bold, inclusive address fosters a sense of immediate connection, dissolving the barriers of time and space. The poem subtly suggests that the experience of crossing the ferry – the sights, sounds, and sensations – are universally shared, regardless of era or individual circumstance. The mundane act becomes profoundly significant, symbolizing our collective journey through life.

II. Symbolism and Imagery: Deconstructing the Brooklyn Ferry

The Brooklyn Ferry itself is a potent symbol. It acts as a conduit, a transitional space connecting different points in time and representing the passage of life. The physical descriptions of the ferry—the bustling crowds, the rhythmic motion, the interplay of light and shadow—are meticulously crafted to evoke a sense of shared human experience. The sights and sounds of the city—the "strong and hasty waves," the "shipping," the "varied, countless crowd"—are not just details but powerful images that contribute to the poem's overall effect. Whitman uses these sensory details to paint a vivid picture, drawing the reader into the poem's emotional landscape. Further, the setting sun, the moon, and the stars are utilized to emphasize the cyclical nature of time and the eternal continuity of the human spirit. The seemingly simple act of witnessing a sunset on a ferry becomes a profound meditation on the vastness of the universe and our place within it.

III. The Significance of Repetition and Parallelism

Whitman's use of repetition and parallelism is crucial to the poem's structure and thematic development. The repetition of phrases and structures reinforces the sense of cyclical time and shared experience. Phrases like "you shall possess the good things of the earth and sun," and "I too was a ferryman" emphasize this continuous connection across generations. This rhythmic repetition also creates a hypnotic effect, drawing the reader deeper into the poem's emotional current. The parallel structure, especially in the long lines and the abundance of enumerations, creates a sense of movement and flow, mirroring the rhythm of the ferry and the passage of time. This mirroring of rhythm and structure strengthens the poem's emotional impact, making it engaging and unforgettable.

IV. Transcendentalism and the Connection to Nature

"Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" is deeply rooted in the principles of Transcendentalism, emphasizing the inherent goodness of humanity and its connection to nature. The poem suggests a spiritual interconnectedness between individuals and the natural world. Whitman's celebration of the simple beauty of the everyday—the sights, sounds, and sensations of the ferry crossing—highlights the inherent spirituality found in the mundane. He suggests that spiritual fulfillment is not found solely in grand gestures but also in the shared experiences of everyday life. The natural elements—the river, the sky, the sun—are not mere background details but vital components of the poem's spiritual landscape, underscoring the poem's transcendentalist leanings.

V. The Enduring Legacy of "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"

The poem's enduring appeal lies in its universality. Its themes of connection, time, and the shared human experience transcend specific cultural and historical contexts. Whitman's masterful use of language, imagery, and structure has ensured its place as a landmark in American literature. The poem continues to resonate with readers because it speaks to fundamental aspects of the human condition: our longing for connection, our awareness of our place in the vastness of time, and our shared journey through life. "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" is not just a poem; it's a timeless testament to the enduring power of the human spirit.

VI. Proposed Book Outline: A Deeper Dive into "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"

Title: Unlocking Whitman's Vision: A Comprehensive Analysis of "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"

Outline:

Introduction: Introducing Walt Whitman and the context of "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," establishing the

poem's significance.

Chapter 1: The Power of Collective Humanity: Analyzing the poem's inclusive address and its establishment of a collective identity across time.

Chapter 2: Deconstructing the Symbolism: A detailed exploration of the symbolism within the poem, including the ferry, the city, and the natural elements.

Chapter 3: The Art of Structure and Style: Focusing on Whitman's use of repetition, parallelism, and free verse to enhance the poem's impact.

Chapter 4: Transcendentalist Influences: Examining the poem's connection to Transcendentalist philosophy and its celebration of nature and humanity.

Chapter 5: Critical Interpretations and Debates: Presenting diverse critical perspectives on the poem and engaging in a thoughtful discussion of varying interpretations.

Chapter 6: "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" in the Broader Context of Whitman's Work: Exploring the poem's place within Whitman's overall poetic vision and thematic concerns.

Chapter 7: The Poem's Enduring Legacy and Relevance: Analyzing the poem's continued impact on readers and its place in literary history.

Conclusion: Summarizing key findings and reiterating the poem's enduring power and significance.

VII. Detailed Explanation of Each Chapter Outline Point

The detailed explanation of each chapter would expand on the points raised in the outline. For instance, Chapter 1 would delve into the specific ways Whitman uses inclusive language ("you," "we," "us") to create a sense of shared experience, providing textual evidence to support the analysis. Chapter 2 would offer detailed interpretations of individual symbols, exploring their multiple meanings and how they contribute to the poem's overall message. Chapter 3 would analyze Whitman's unique stylistic choices, using close readings of specific lines and stanzas to illustrate his techniques. The subsequent chapters would follow a similar pattern, providing in-depth analysis supported by textual evidence and critical scholarship. The entire book would aim for a comprehensive understanding of the poem, engaging with existing scholarship while offering fresh insights and interpretations.

VIII. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the main theme of "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"? The main themes revolve around the shared human experience across time, the connection between humanity and nature, and the cyclical nature of life.
1. What is the significance of the Brooklyn Ferry in the poem? The ferry symbolizes the passage of time and the continuous flow of human life, acting as a conduit connecting different generations.

1. How does Whitman use imagery in "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"? He employs vivid sensory imagery to create a powerful and immersive experience for the reader, drawing them into the scene and its emotions.

1. What is the role of repetition and parallelism in the poem's structure? Repetition and parallelism reinforce the sense of cyclical time and shared experience, creating a rhythmic and hypnotic effect.

1. What is the connection between "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" and Transcendentalism? The poem reflects Transcendentalist ideas by emphasizing the inherent goodness of humanity and its connection to the natural world.

1. What are some of the different interpretations of "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"? Different interpretations focus on aspects like democracy, community, the passage of time, spiritual connection, and the relationship between the individual and the collective.

1. How does "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" reflect Whitman's overall poetic vision? The poem exemplifies Whitman's democratic spirit, his celebration of everyday life, and his focus on the interconnectedness of humanity.

1. Why is "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" considered a significant work of American literature? It's considered significant due to its innovative style, its powerful themes, its lasting impact on readers, and its influence on subsequent generations of poets.

1. Where can I find more information about "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"? You can find more information in literary anthologies, academic journals, critical essays, and online resources dedicated to American literature.

IX. Related Articles:

1. Whitman's Use of Free Verse in "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry": Explores the unique stylistic choices and their contribution to the poem's effect.
2. The Symbolism of Light and Shadow in "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry": Analyzes the use of light and shadow as metaphors for time, life, and death.
3. Comparing "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" to Other Whitman Poems: Draws parallels and contrasts with other significant works by Walt Whitman.
4. The Political Undertones of "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry": Examines the poem's potential political messages related to democracy and community.
5. The Influence of Transcendentalism on "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry": Delves deeper into the poem's connection to Transcendentalist philosophy.
6. "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry": A Feminist Reading: Offers a critical perspective examining gender roles and representation within the poem.
7. Teaching "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" in the Classroom: Provides educators with strategies and resources for teaching this complex poem.
8. The Evolution of Critical Interpretations of "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry": Traces how the poem's interpretation has evolved over time.
9. "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" and the American Experience: Explores how the poem reflects and embodies key aspects of the American identity.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: **Crossing Brooklyn Ferry** Jennie Fields, 2009-10-13 Escaping the narrow, wealthy life she led in Manhattan, Zoe Finney moves her family to Park Slope, Brooklyn, an area of beautiful old brownstones where working-class families have lived for generations. A poor girl who married into money, Zoe finds comfort in the close-knit neighborhood. She hopes the change will reinvigorate her profoundly depressed husband and provide a happy place for her small daughter, Rose, to grow. But her arrival there alters the lives around her, especially the handsome schoolteacher next door, Keevan O'Connor, who is deeply drawn to her. Despite Zoe's initial hesitation, they begin to fall in love. Rose is thrilled, recognizing in Keevan the warm, fun-loving father hers could never be. But when Zoe's husband wakes from his depression to see his wife slipping away, Zoe is torn between her love for two men.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: Poems by Walt Whitman Walt Whitman, 2016-04-22

Walt Whitman is widely regarded as one of the masters of American poetry. Here are collected his finest poems, a perfect companion for any fan of Whitman's work.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: The Redshifting Web Arthur Sze, 1998 Sze is one of the most intensely musical and visionary poets writing today. The Redshifting Web spans more than a quarter of a century's worth of his published work and makes available for the first time the full range of his poetry.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: Crossing Brooklyn Ferry Walt Whitman, 2011

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: On Whitman C. K. Williams, 2017-01-31 Pulitzer Prize-winning poet C. K. Williams's personal reflection on the art of Walt Whitman In this book, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet C. K. Williams sets aside the mass of biography and literary criticism that has accumulated around Walt Whitman and attempts to go back to *Leaves of Grass* as he first encountered it—to explore why Whitman's epic continues to inspire and sometimes daunt him. The result is a personal reassessment and appreciation of one master poet by another, as well as an unconventional and brilliant introduction to Whitman. Beautifully written and rich with insight, this is a book that refreshes our ability to see Whitman in all his power.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: Leaves of Grass Walt Whitman, 1872

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: Song of Myself Walt Whitman, 2024-03-20 One of the Greatest Poems in American Literature Walt Whitman (1819-1892) was considered by many to be one of the most important American poets of all time. He had a profound influence on all those who came after him. "Song of Myself", a portion of Whitman's monumental poetry collection "Leaves of Grass", is one of his most beloved poems. It was through this moving piece that Whitman first made himself known to the world. One of the most acclaimed of all American poems, it is written in Whitman's signature free verse style, without a regular form, meter, or rhythm. His lines have a mesmerizing chant-like quality, as he sought to make poetry more appealing. Few poems are as fun to read aloud as this one. Considered to be the core of his poetic vision, this poem is an optimistic and inspirational look at the world in 1855. It is exhilarating, epic, and fresh in its brilliant and fascinating diction and wordplay as it tries to capture the unique meaning of words of the day, while also embracing the rapidly evolving vocabularies of the sciences and the streets. Far ahead of its time, it was considered by many social conservatives to be scandalous and obscene for its depiction of sexuality and desire, while at the same time, critics hailed the poem as a modern masterpiece. This first version of "Song of Myself" is far superior to the later versions and will delight readers with the playfulness of its diction as it glorifies the self, body, and soul. "I am large, I contain multitudes,"

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: Literary Brooklyn Evan Hughes, 2011-08-16 For the first time, here is Brooklyn's story through the eyes of its greatest storytellers. Like Paris in the twenties or postwar Greenwich Village, Brooklyn today is experiencing an extraordinary cultural boom. In recent years, writers of all stripes—from Jhumpa Lahiri, Jennifer Egan, and Colson Whitehead to Nicole Krauss and Jonathan Safran Foer—have flocked to its patchwork of distinctive neighborhoods. But as literary critic and journalist Evan Hughes reveals, the rich literary life now flourishing in Brooklyn is part of a larger, fascinating history. With a dynamic mix of literary biography and urban history, Hughes takes us on a tour of Brooklyn past and present and reveals that hiding in Walt Whitman's Fort Greene Park, Hart Crane's Brooklyn Bridge, the raw Williamsburg of Henry Miller's youth, Truman Capote's famed house on Willow Street, and the contested streets of Jonathan Lethem's Boerum Hill is the story of more than a century of life in America's cities. Literary Brooklyn is a prismatic investigation into a rich literary inheritance, but most of all it's a deep look into the beloved borough, a place as diverse and captivating as the people who walk its streets and write its stories.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: What Is the Grass Mark Doty, 2021-04-06 "[An] incisive, personal mediation." —New York Times Book Review Mark Doty has always felt haunted by Walt Whitman's perennially new American voice, and by his equally radical claims about body and soul. In *What Is the Grass*, Doty effortlessly blends biography, criticism, and memoir to keep

company with Whitman and his *Leaves of Grass*, tracing the resonances between his own experience and the legendary poet's life and work.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: Passage to India Walt Whitman, 1870

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *Brookland* Emily Barton, 2006 Set in eighteenth-century Brooklyn, this is the story of a determined and intelligent woman who is consumed by a vision of a bridge she devises to cross the East River in a single, magnificent span.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *When Brooklyn Was Queer* Hugh Ryan, 2019-03-05 The never-before-told story of Brooklyn's vibrant and forgotten queer history, from the mid-1850s up to the present day. ***An ALA GLBT Round Table Over the Rainbow 2019 Top Ten Selection*** ***NAMED ONE OF THE BEST LGBTQ BOOKS OF 2019 by Harper's Bazaar*** A romantic, exquisite history of gay culture. —Kirkus Reviews, starred "[A] boisterous, motley new history...entertaining and insightful." —The New York Times Book Review Hugh Ryan's *When Brooklyn Was Queer* is a groundbreaking exploration of the LGBT history of Brooklyn, from the early days of Walt Whitman in the 1850s up through the queer women who worked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard during World War II, and beyond. No other book, movie, or exhibition has ever told this sweeping story. Not only has Brooklyn always lived in the shadow of queer Manhattan neighborhoods like Greenwich Village and Harlem, but there has also been a systematic erasure of its queer history—a great forgetting. Ryan is here to unearth that history for the first time. In intimate, evocative, moving prose he discusses in new light the fundamental questions of what history is, who tells it, and how we can only make sense of ourselves through its retelling; and shows how the formation of the Brooklyn we know today is inextricably linked to the stories of the incredible people who created its diverse neighborhoods and cultures. Through them, *When Brooklyn Was Queer* brings Brooklyn's queer past to life, and claims its place as a modern classic.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *In Walt We Trust* John Marsh, 2015 Life in the United States today is shot through with uncertainty: about our jobs, our mortgaged houses, our retirement accounts, our health, our marriages, and the future that awaits our children. For many, our lives, public and private, have come to feel like the discomfort and unease you experience the day or two before you get really sick. Our life is a scratchy throat. John Marsh offers an unlikely remedy for this widespread malaise: the poetry of Walt Whitman. Mired in personal and political depression, Marsh turned to Whitman—and it saved his life. In *Walt We Trust: How a Queer Socialist Poet Can Save what he believed by showing how they emerged from Whitman's life and times*, and by recreating the places and incidents (crossing Brooklyn ferry, visiting wounded soldiers in hospitals) that inspired Whitman to write the poems. Whitman, Marsh argues, can show us how to die, how to accept and even celebrate our (relatively speaking) imminent death. Just as important, though, he can show us how to live: how to have better sex, what to do about money, and, best of all, how to survive our fetid democracy without coming away stinking ourselves. The result is a mix of biography, literary criticism, manifesto, and a kind of self-help you're unlikely to encounter anywhere else--

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *The Hatred of Poetry* Ben Lerner, 2016-06-07 The novelist and poet Ben Lerner argues that our hatred of poetry is ultimately a sign of its nagging relevance--

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *The Maze at Windermere* Gregory Blake Smith, 2019-01-22 Named one of the best books of 2018 by The Washington Post, The Seattle Times, and The Advocate "Staggeringly brilliant . . . You'll start *The Maze of Windermere* with bewilderment, but you'll close it in awe." —The Washington Post "Pitch perfect." —New York Times Book Review When a drunken party guest challenges him to a late-night tennis match, Sandy Allison finds himself unexpectedly entangled in the monied world of Newport, Rhode Island. A former touring pro a little down on his luck, Sandy has nothing to stake against the vintage motorcycle his opponent wagers. But then Alice DuPont—the young heiress to a Newport mansion called Windermere—offers up her diamond necklace. With this reckless wager begins a dazzling narrative odyssey that braids together four centuries of aspiration and adversity in this renowned seaside society capital. A witty and

urbane bachelor of the Gilded Age embarks on a high-risk scheme to marry into a fortune; a young Henry James, soon to make his mark on the world, turns himself to his craft with harrowing social consequences; an aristocratic British officer during the American Revolution carries on a courtship that leads to murder; and, in Newport's earliest days, a tragically orphaned Quaker girl imagines a way forward for herself and the slave girl she has inherited. Gregory Blake Smith weaves these intersecting worlds into a rich, brilliant tapestry. A deftly layered novel of love, ambition, and duplicity, *The Maze at Windermere* charts a voyage across the ages into the maze of the human heart.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *I Hear America Singing* Walt Whitman, 1991
Whitman's famous poem, accompanied by linoleum-cut illustrations, depicts people at work all over an earlier America.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *Song of the Broad-axe* Walt Whitman, 1924
Complete set of the thirteen woodcut illustrations used in the 1924 edition of *Song of the Broad-axe* by Walt Whitman, published by Centaur Press in Philadelphia. Each woodcut is titled and numbered 16. The titles are (as they appear in the book): No.I, Ship struck in storm, Beauty of woodmen, building, the forger, hell of war, The great city, of the best-bodied mothers, the hammers-men, the headsman, solid forest, the liquor-bar, and No.II.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer* Walt Whitman, 2004-11-01
Leave time for wonder. Walt Whitman's *When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer* is an enduring celebration of the imagination. Here, Whitman's wise words are beautifully recast by New York Times #1 best-selling illustrator Loren Long to tell the story of a boy's fascination with the heavens. Toy rocket in hand, the boy finds himself in a crowded, stuffy lecture hall. At first he is amazed by the charts and the figures. But when he finds himself overwhelmed by the pontifications of an academic, he retreats to the great outdoors and does something as universal as the stars themselves... he dreams.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *The Runaway* Robert Frost, 2006-10-23
A poem about a colt frightened by falling snow.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *After All, Not to Create Only* Walt Whitman, 1871
Seventeen kings and forty-two elephants romp with a variety of jungle animals during their journey through a wild, wet night.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *The Plural of Us* Bonnie Costello, 2020-06-09
The *Plural of Us* is the first book to focus on the poet's use of the first-person plural voice—poetry's "we." Closely exploring the work of W. H. Auden, Bonnie Costello uncovers the trove of thought and feeling carried in this small word. While lyric has long been associated with inwardness and a voice saying "I," "we" has hardly been noticed, even though it has appeared throughout the history of poetry. Reading for this pronoun in its variety and ambiguity, Costello explores the communal function of poetry—the reasons, risks, and rewards of the first-person plural. Costello adopts a taxonomic approach to her subject, considering "we" from its most constricted to its fully unbounded forms. She also takes a historical perspective, following Auden's interest in the full range of "the human pluralities" in a time of particular pressure for and against the collective. Costello offers new readings as she tracks his changing approach to voice in democracy. Examples from many other poets—including Walt Whitman, T. S. Eliot, Elizabeth Bishop, and Wallace Stevens—arise throughout the book, and the final chapter offers a consideration of how contemporary writers find form for what George Oppen called "the meaning of being numerous." Connecting insights to philosophy of language and to recent work in concepts of community, *The Plural of Us* shows how poetry raises vital questions—literary and social—about how we speak of our togetherness.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *Live Oak, with Moss* Walt Whitman, Brian Selznick, 2019-04-09
"Reading this book, what becomes eminently clear is that Selznick is laying the groundwork for GLBTQIA+ literary history . . . as it pertains to Whitman." —School Library Journal
As he was turning forty, Walt Whitman wrote twelve poems in a small handmade book he entitled "Live Oak, With Moss." The poems were intensely private reflections on his attraction to and

affection for other men. They were also Whitman's most adventurous explorations of the theme of same-sex love, composed decades before the word "homosexual" came into use. This revolutionary, extraordinarily beautiful and passionate cluster of poems was never published by Whitman and has remained unknown to the general public—until now. New York Times–bestselling and Caldecott Award–winning illustrator Brian Selznick offers a provocative visual narrative of "Live Oak, With Moss," and Whitman scholar Karen Karbiener reconstructs the story of the poetic cluster's creation and destruction. Walt Whitman's reassembled, reinterpreted Live Oak, With Moss serves as a source of inspiration and a cause for celebration. "In harmony, the art, the poems, and [Karbiener's] analysis all honor while illuminating Whitman's work and make it more accessible to contemporary readers." —Publishers Weekly

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *O Captain! My Captain!* Walt Whitman, 1915

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *The Universal Deep Structure of Modern Poetry* John A.F. Hopkins, 2020-04-02 With something of a poetry renaissance currently under way worldwide, there is now, more than ever, a need for a solidly-based methodology for interpreting poems: something more empirical than traditional "lit-crit" approaches, and something more linguistically-informed than the version of "postmodernism" rampant in certain Anglophone universities. The latter approach, which tends to allow the individual reader to do what he/she likes with a poetic text, is inadequate to interpret modernist poetry, whose English-language precursors may be found in the late Romantics; its pioneers were already writing (in France) as early as 1840. What is so different about the modernists? Most importantly, their works are monumental, in that they are strongly resistant to deconstruction. Contributing to this resistance is the fact that they are built around two deep-level propositions, each of which generates a set of indirectly-signifying images, sharing the same internal structure, but having a different vocabulary. Thus, they do not signify according to linear narrative, but according to these propositions—and the relation between them—which may be reconstructed by a careful comparison of images on the textual surface. Every text—as subject-sign—refers to an intertextual object-sign, which is usually another poem, but may also be a film or other form of art. Mediating between these two signs is their reader-constructed interpretant, which completes the semiotic triad. As this book shows, the novelty of this sign is thrown into relief by the contrast it makes with a lexical counterpart from the reader's experience, which differs from the interpretant in structure. The book's inclusion of French and Japanese, as well as English poems, shows that deep-level signifying mechanisms may well be universal, with considerable research and pedagogical implications.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *A Companion to Walt Whitman* Donald D.

Kummings, 2008-04-15 Comprising more than 30 substantial essays written by leading scholars, this companion constitutes an exceptionally broad-ranging and in-depth guide to one of America's greatest poets. Makes the best and most up-to-date thinking on Whitman available to students. Designed to make readers more aware of the social and cultural contexts of Whitman's work, and of the experimental nature of his writing. Includes contributions devoted to specific poetry and prose works, a compact biography of the poet, and a bibliography.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *The Imperial Self* Quentin Anderson, 1971

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *Dazzled* Arthur Sze, 1982

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *LEAVES OF GRASS* WALT WHITMAN, 1892

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *November Boughs* Walt Whitman, 1888

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *Invisible Listeners* Helen Vendler, 2009-02-09

When a poet addresses a living person—whether friend or enemy, lover or sister—we recognize the expression of intimacy. But what impels poets to leap across time and space to speak to invisible listeners, seeking an ideal intimacy—George Herbert with God, Walt Whitman with a reader in the future, John Ashbery with the Renaissance painter Francesco Parmigianino? In *Invisible Listeners*, Helen Vendler argues that such poets must invent the language that will enact, on the page, an intimacy they lack in life. Through brilliantly insightful and gracefully written readings of these three great poets over three different centuries, Vendler maps out their relationships with their chosen

listeners. For his part, Herbert revises the usual vertical address to God in favor of a horizontal one-addressing God as a friend. Whitman hovers in a sometimes erotic, sometimes quasi-religious language in conceiving the democratic camerado, who will, following Whitman's example, find his true self. And yet the camerado will be replaced, in Whitman's verse, by the ultimate invisible listener, Death. Ashbery, seeking a fellow artist who believes that art always distorts what it represents, finds he must travel to the remote past. In tones both tender and skeptical he addresses Parmigianino, whose extraordinary self-portrait in a convex mirror furnishes the poet with both a theory and a precedent for his own inventions. By creating the forms and speech of ideal intimacy, these poets set forth the possibility of a more complete and satisfactory human interchange—an ethics of relation that is uncoerced, understanding, and free.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: Beat! Beat! Drums! Walt Whitman, 2015-12-12
Walter Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892) was an American poet, essayist and journalist. A humanist, he was a part of the transition between transcendentalism and realism, incorporating both views in his works. Whitman is among the most influential poets in the American canon, often called the father of free verse. Whitman's work breaks the boundaries of poetic form and is generally prose-like. He also used unusual images and symbols in his poetry, including rotting leaves, tufts of straw, and debris. He also openly wrote about death and sexuality, including prostitution. He is often labeled as the father of free verse, though he did not invent it. Whitman wrote in the preface to the 1855 edition of *Leaves of Grass*, The proof of a poet is that his country absorbs him as affectionately as he has absorbed it. He believed there was a vital, symbiotic relationship between the poet and society. This connection was emphasized especially in *Song of Myself* by using an all-powerful first-person narration. As an American epic, it deviated from the historic use of an elevated hero and instead assumed the identity of the common people. *Leaves of Grass* also responded to the impact that recent urbanization in the United States had on the masses.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: The Good Gray Poet William Douglas O'Connor, 1927

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: All Souls Michael Patrick MacDonald, 2024-08-20
"All Souls is the written equivalent of an Irish wake, where revelers dance and sing the dead person's praises. In that same style, the book leavens tragedy with dashes of humor but preserves the heartbreaking details."—The New York Times Book Review A 25th anniversary edition of the National Bestselling memoir, with a new afterword from Michael Patrick MacDonald, takes us deep into the South Boston housing projects during one of the city's most tumultuous times in history and tells the story of his family struggling to overcome the poverty, crime, addiction, and incarceration that overtook the neighborhood. A breakaway bestseller since its first printing, *All Souls* takes us deep into Michael Patrick MacDonald's Southie, the proudly insular neighborhood with the highest concentration of white poverty in America. Rocked by Whitey Bulger's crime schemes and busing riots, MacDonald's Southie is populated by sharply hewn characters. We meet Ma, Michael's mini-skirted, accordion-playing, single mother who endures the deaths of four of her eleven children. And there are Michael's older siblings Davey, sweet artist-dreamer; Kevin, child genius of scam; and Frankie, Golden Gloves boxer and neighborhood hero whose lives are high-wire acts played out in a world of poverty and pride. Nearly suffocated by his grief and his community's code of silence, MacDonald tells his family story here with gritty but moving honesty. *All Souls* is heartbreaking testimony to lives lost too early, and the story of how a place so filled with pain could still be "the best place in the world."

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: Memories of President Lincoln Walt Whitman, 1906

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: The Routledge Encyclopedia of Walt Whitman J.R. LeMaster, Donald D. Kummings, 2013-09-05 The Routledge Encyclopedia of Walt Whitman presents a comprehensive resource compiled by over 200 internationally recognized contributors, including such leading Whitman scholars as James E. Miller, Jr., Roger Asselineau, Betsy Erkkila, and Joel Myerson. Now available for the first time in paperback, this volume comprises more than

750 entries arranged in convenient alphabetical format. Coverage includes: biographical information: all names, dates, places, and events important to understanding Whitman's life and career Whitman's works: essays on all eight editions of *Leaves of Grass*, major poems and poem clusters, principal essays and prose works, as well as his more than two dozen short stories and the novel, *Franklin Evans* prominent themes and concepts: essays on such major topics as democracy, slavery, the Civil War, immortality, sexuality, and the women's rights movement. significant forms and techniques: such as prosody, symbolism, free verse, and humour important trends and critical approaches in Whitman studies: including new historicist and cultural criticism, psychological explorations, and controversial issues of sexual identity surveys of Whitman's international impact as well as an assessment of his literary legacy. Useful for students, researchers, librarians, teachers, and Whitman devotees, this volume features extensive cross-references, numerous photographs of the poet, a chronology, a special appendix section tracking the poet's genealogy, and a thorough index. Each entry includes a bibliography for further study.

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *Atomic Love* Jennie Fields, 2020-08-18 A novel of science, love, espionage, beautiful writing, and a heroine who carves a strong path in the world of men. As far as I'm concerned there is nothing left to want.--Ann Patchett, author *The Dutch House* A highly-charged love story that reveals the dangerous energy at the heart of every real connection...Riveting.--Delia Owens, author of *Where the Crawdads Sing* Love. Desire. Betrayal. Her choice could save a nation. Chicago, 1950. Rosalind Porter has always defied expectations--in her work as a physicist on the Manhattan Project and in her passionate love affair with colleague Thomas Weaver. Five years after the end of both, her guilt over the bomb and her heartbreak over Weaver are intertwined. She desperately misses her work in the lab, yet has almost resigned herself to a more conventional life. Then Weaver gets back in touch--and so does the FBI. Special Agent Charlie Szydlo wants Roz to spy on Weaver, whom the FBI suspects of passing nuclear secrets to the enemy. Roz helped to develop these secrets and knows better than anyone the devastating power such knowledge holds. But can she spy on a man she still loves, despite her better instincts? At the same time, something about Charlie draws her in. He's a former prisoner of war haunted by his past, just as her past haunts her. As Rosalind's feelings for each man deepen, so too does the danger she finds herself in. She will have to choose: the man who taught her how to love . . . or the man her love might save?

crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *Walt Whitman, Where the Future Becomes Present* David Haven Blake, Michael Robertson, 2008-04 Walt Whitman, *Where the Future Becomes Present* invigorates Whitman studies by garnering insights from a diverse group of writers and intellectuals. Writing from the perspectives of art history, political theory, creative writing, and literary criticism, the contributors place Whitman in the center of both world literature and American public life. The volume is especially notable for being the best example yet published of what the editors call the New Textuality in Whitman studies, an emergent mode of criticism that focuses on the different editions of Whitman's poems as independent works of art.

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crossing brooklyn ferry literary analysis: *A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms* Jonathan Swift, 2011-08-01 According to legend, when the author and Historical Long Rider Jonathan Swift made an equestrian journey across Ireland, he arrived at a remarkable conclusion. The beloved mare who carried him faithfully was a paragon of reason, understanding and sympathy, unlike his fellow human beings. At the conclusion of the ride, Swift penned his famous book, *Gulliver's Travels*. It told the tale of Lemuel Gulliver, a ship's captain who sailed to four remarkable kingdoms. While the simple children's version focuses on the little people of Lilliput, it was the talking horses found in the fourth adventure which outraged civilised English society. *A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms* recounts how Captain Gulliver's crew mutinied and set him ashore on an unknown island. There he encountered a race of savage humanoids who threatened to kill him. The bewildered traveller was rescued by horses, who it turns out could speak and in fact ruled the

island. What follows is an astonishing tale that turns man's definition of himself on its head. The naked, warlike and murderous humans are known as Yahoos, a term still used today as a synonym for ruffian. In order to draw attention to the evils of materialism and elitism, Swift described the Yahoos as savage creatures with selfish habits, who are obsessed with digging pretty stones from the mud. In stark contrast the Houyhnhnms, which in their language means the perfection of nature, are a race of intelligent horses that enjoy a peaceful society based upon reason. Though he is biologically akin to the Yahoos, Gulliver prefers the company of his benevolent equine hosts. When he learns to converse with the horses, Gulliver attempts to explain human society. His equine hosts are perplexed with the alien concepts of greed, war and injustice. Nor do they have a word for 'lie, ' and must substitute the phrase to say a thing which is not. When Gulliver reluctantly returns to England, he finds the company of his countrymen, whom he now views as Yahoos, so intolerable that he spends most of his time in the stable near his home. Thus, this equine episode is the keystone of Gulliver's Travels and reflects Swift's disenchantment with popular society. Originally it was believed that A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms was a metaphor used by Swift to highlight England's treatment of slaves as lesser human beings. More recently, it has been described as an early example of animal rights, in that Gulliver's role reversal highlighted how cruelly English horses were treated. First released anonymously in 1726, it sold out in less than a week. Since then, the challenging tale has never been out of print. Nor has there arrived a human who has answered the challenge Swift wrote for his own epitaph. Go forth, Voyager, and copy, if you can, this vigorous champion of Liberty.

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