That Music Always Round Me

By: Walt Whitman

Ana Quezada

When I first saw the title of this poem I immediately wanted to read it. I inferred from the title that it was going to be about music and how he interprets it. It gave me a since that he was fond of music and it was enriched in his life. Personally I know alot about music whether it be classical or another genre I am well versed in it. So, when reading this it was easy to comprehend and it sparked my interest.

This poem is the depiction of what Walt Whitman thought about while listening to the music in which surrounded him. He thought in depth about each singer and part within the choir. He described their singing and voice movements in a way that I have never heard before. Whitman went into detail on each part within the ensemble and it’s actions and overall sound. He doesn’t consider hearing the music as music but rather as hidden meanings and purposes throughout the piece. He finishes of the poem with the thought that he learned who the people were and perhaps even new the musicians better than their own selves. Whitman use assonance in lines 4, 6, and 8. By beginning with the ‘A’ and following up with the description of the part. He uses Blank verse due to him not rhyming throughout the poem. He utilizes imagery many times in the piece. Describing the soprano “sailing buoyantly over the tops of immense waves.” Whitman’s tone portrays a strong appreciation for music and the people who sing it. He speaks in a relatively positive tone and relating each part to a grand comparison. Hyperboles are used many times in the poem when describing the musicians. This poem is in a time in which music is a key aspect. With amazing composers and musicians this poem relates to this time period very well.