*Nothing is ever really lost, or can be lost,
No birth, identity, form—no object of the world.
Nor life, nor force, nor any visible thing;
Appearance must not foil, nor shifted sphere confuse thy brain.
Ample are time and space—ample the fields of Nature.
The body, sluggish, aged, cold—the embers left from earlier fires,
The light in the eye grown dim, shall duly flame again;
The sun now low in the west rises for mornings and for noons continual;
To frozen clods ever the spring's invisible law returns,
With grass and flowers and summer fruits and corn.*

In These two lines Whitman compares humans to a fire stating that we will eventually go out but will light again. This analogy reminded me of a Phoenix, a mythological bird who burst into flames when they die, then are reborn out of there ashes

I associated these two lines with each other because logically for nothing to ne lost you would need an infinite amount of time and space to “store” everything

I took this line at face value, that the sun will continue to rise and set, and spring will continue to come.

This poem is about how “nothing is ever really lost”, they are just are contained in the infinite space and time. The focus if the poem then switches to a more spiritual aspect, stating that your body will grow old and follow along with the cycle of continuity, while your spirit remains. Whitman then. To contrast the ideas of the earlier lines Walt Whitman brings up how continuity affects the physical word. When he says that the sun “rises for mornings and for noons continual” he literally means that the sun will continue to set, and spring will continue to come.

Repetition/ Anaphora- Walt Whitman continuously uses the word “nor” to emphasize the point he is trying to make. He wants to make it clear that nothing can be lost. The multiple uses of nor also helps the poem flow easier and gives it a sense of rhythm

In the last line of the poem when Whitman is listing thing that spring brings, he repeats the word “the” with every word he lists. I believe he does this to stress all the constants that comes along with spring. He does this to prove his point, that everything continues including the rising of the sun and the season. Like before the repetition also creates rhythm.

For the second time in this poem Whitman repeats a word to emphasize his point, by using the word ample twice in this one line he is trying to convince us of is idea, the same as he did before when he uses the word nor multiple times.

Simile- In this line Whitman compares the human body to a fire, stating that as we grow older, we slowly burn out. He uses this line to address the spiritual aspect of continuity, because even though you body dies your spirit will remain, your body simply must follow the laws of continuity.

Rhythm- The use in repetition in this poem creates rhythm. This rhythm helps the poem flow better and make it easier to read.

Personification- I took this line as an example of personification because to me Whitman makes spring out to be an authority that enforces continuity and has created the law that everything continues indefinitely.

 Some of the key themes in Walt Whitman’s book are the body and the spirit, Nature and, time. Looking at those key themes it is easy to see how this poem fits in with the others. This poem addresses nature through the idea that spring is there to enforce the system of continuity. The body and spirit are mentioned through the notion that eventually the body will die and burn out but the spirit will remain alive and present because time and space are infinite and therefore are able to contain everything.