

# O Captain! My Captain!

by Walt Whitman

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,

The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won,  
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,  
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;  
But O heart! heart! heart!  
O the bleeding drops of red,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;  
Rise up- for you the flag is flung- for you the bugle trills,  
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths- for you the shores a-crowding,  
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;  
Here Captain! dear father!  
This arm beneath your head!  
It is some dream that on the deck,  
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,  
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,  
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,  
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;  
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!  
But I with mournful tread,  
Walk the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

1. Who does the Captain represent?
2. What is the "ship"?
3. What do you think "the ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done" mean?
4. How does the author feel about the Captain?
5. How does this express what people may have felt about the sudden and unexpected passing of Lincoln?

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1. Who does the Captain represent?

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

2. What is the "ship"?

THE UNITED STATES

3. What do you think "the ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done" mean?

LINCOLN GUIDED THE COUNTRY THROUGH THE "STORMS" OF THE CIVIL WAR AND PRESERVED THE UNION. THE WAR WAS OVER. THE FIGHT WAS FINISHED.

4. How does the author feel about the Captain?

HE LOVED HIM DEEPLY, AS IF HE WERE HIS OWN FATHER. HE MORNS HIS LOSS.

5. How does this express what people may have felt about the sudden and unexpected passing of Lincoln?

LINCOLN BECAME A RESPECTED FIGURE AS THE WAR ENDED AND PEOPLE WERE SAD AND SHOCKED THAT HE HAD BEEN KILLED.

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