I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe
and strong,
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam, the
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off
work,
5 The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the
deckhand singing on the steamboat deck,
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing
as he stands,
The wood-cutter’s song, the ploughboy’s on his way in the
morning, or at noon intermission or at sundown,
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work,
or of the girl sewing or washing,
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,
10 The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young
fellows, robust, friendly,
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.

Literary Analysis
1. **Summarize**  What types of workers does Whitman celebrate
   in this poem?
2. **Clarify**  What do you think singing represents in the poem?
3. **Make Inferences**  Why do you think Whitman does not
   mention wealthy entrepreneurs, prominent leaders, or
   powerful politicians?

**FREE VERSE**
Notice the use of **cataloging** throughout
the poem. What rhythmic
effect does the poet
create with his list of the
men and women at work
in America?

**ANALYZE TONE**
Reread lines 10–11. What
attitude does the speaker
express toward the young
men? Note the words
and details that help
convey that attitude.

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*The Reaper* (1878), Winslow Homer.
Watercolor. Private collection.
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