

## Close Reading Guide: “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”

As you first read the poem, jot down the words that are unfamiliar to you. Work with others to determine the meanings of those words, consulting dictionaries and online resources as needed. Then reread the poem and answer the questions below.

### Unfamiliar Words

1. What is the setting of this poem? How do you know?
2. Who is speaking? What, if anything, can you infer about the speaker, such as age, gender, social class, etc.? Who is the speaker speaking to?
3. How is this poem organized?
4. Walt Whitman frequently included lists in his poems. What lists do you find in this poem? What effect do these lists have on the poem?
5. How do rhythm and repetition contribute to the poem? In what ways does the rhythm of the poem reflect the subject and setting of the poem?