

#flo #inclass \*

## 1 | time to go.

*lets do it.*

american hist is fraught! we continue semester 1.

### 1.0.1 | I Hear America Singing

BY WALT WHITMAN (Links to an external site.)

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

his his his what as on of reflects agency?

unique -> everyone is valuable, not just unique. everyone does their part

I, too, sing America. < america is something that can be sung

I am the darker brother. < sick wordplay. They send me to eat in the kitchen

When company comes, < second class? using fundamentals like eating? :: bottom of maslow hierarchy

But I laugh, < overcoming, improving And eat well,

And grow strong.

Tomorrow, < tomorrow! hope! I'll be at the table < promise When company comes. < period, not comma..

Nobody'll dare < dare? not about power Say to me,

"Eat in the kitchen,"

Then.

Besides,

They'll see how beautiful I am

And be ashamed—

I, too, am America. < nationalist as well? wc

sing vs am 'too' is crucial - ariel

## 2 | Theme for English B

Langston Hughes (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) - 1902-1967

The instructor said, < instructor

*Go home and write*

*a page tonight.*

*And let that page come out of you—*

*Then, it will be true.* < generated from someone, then it is true?

I wonder if it's that simple? < not saying it's wrong? I am twenty-two, colored, born in Winston-Salem. < missing context here I went to school there, then Durham, then here < to this college on the hill above Harlem. < college "on the hill" I am the only colored student in my class.

The steps from the hill lead down into Harlem, < lead "down" through a park, then I cross St. Nicholas, < missing context again Eighth Avenue, Seventh, and I come to the Y, < the Harlem Branch Y, where I take the elevator < diverging paths up to my room, sit down, and write this page: < meta! this must be true

It's not easy to know what is true for you or me < you or me instead of us? or just, what is true? at twenty-two, my age. But I guess I'm what

I feel and see and hear, Harlem, I hear you: < are experiences hear you, hear me—we two—you, me, talk on this page. < ?? in dialogue (I hear New York, too.) Me—who? < the question of identity Well, I like to eat, sleep, drink, and be in love. < stereotype? I like to work, read, learn, and understand life. < contrast I like a pipe for a Christmas present,

or records—Bessie, bop, or Bach. < contrast! all about being split between two worlds I guess being colored doesn't make me *not* like

the same things other folks like who are other races. < likes **more** So will my page be colored that I write? < page embodies the reader

Being me, it will not be white. < But it will be < a part of you, instructor.

You are white—

yet a part of me, as I am a part of you. < intertwined culture That's American. > interconnectedness is american Sometimes perhaps you don't want to be a part of me. Nor do I often want to be a part of you.

But we are, that's true! < inevitable As I learn from you,

I guess you learn from me—

although you're older—and white—

and somewhat more free.

This is my page for English B. < trapped in the institution

we all define each other, and then communal definition is what is american. this stretches class and race and wants, it's "true"

## 2.0.1 |another poem

Will V-Day Be Me-Day Too?

Langston Hughes (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) - 1902-1967

Over There,

World War II. < not here!

Dear Fellow Americans, < fellow, also an american I write this letter

Hoping times will be better

When this war

Is through.

I'm a Tan-skinned Yank < def? Driving a tank.

I ask, WILL V-DAY

BE ME-DAY, TOO? < included in the victory?

I wear a U. S. uniform.

I've done the enemy much harm,

I've driven back

The Germans and the Japs,

From Burma to the Rhine.

On every battle line,

I've dropped defeat

Into the Fascists' laps. < served americans cause

I am a Negro American < not just a "normal" american Out to defend my land < **my** land Army, Navy, Air Corps—

I am there.

I take munitions through,

I fight—or stevedore, too.

I face death the same as you do < fundamental unity Everywhere. < but death is everywhere. iffy tho, cus so did the other side of the war?

I've seen my buddy lying

Where he fell.

I've watched him dying

I promised him that I would try

To make our land a land < land is not literally land, yet Where his son could be a man—

And there'd be no Jim Crow birds

Left in our sky. < nice wordplay

So this is what I want to know:

When we see Victory's glow,

Will you still let old Jim Crow

Hold me back?

When all those foreign folks who've waited—

Italians, Chinese, Danes—are liberated.

Will I still be ill-fated

Because I'm black?

Here in my own, my native land, Will the Jim Crow laws still stand?

Will Dixie Lynch me still < who? :: confederates When I return?

Or will you comrades in arms

From the factories and the farms,

Have learned what this war

Was fought for us to learn? < war was fought for them to learn? because applied to others?

When I take off my uniform,

Will I be safe from harm—

Or will you do me

As the Germans did the Jews? < drawing similarity to nazis When I've helped this world to save,

Shall I still be color's slave? < slave to color itself? Or will Victory change

Your antiquated views?

You can't say I didn't fight

To smash the Fascists' might.

You can't say I wasn't with you

in each battle.

As a soldier, and a friend. < friend When this war comes to an end,

Will you herd me in a Jim Crow car

Like cattle?

Or will you stand up like a man

At home and take your stand < at home? about democracy? For Democracy? < taking a stand for equal rights = a stand for democracy That's all I ask of you.

When we lay the guns away

To celebrate

Our Victory Day

WILL V-DAY BE ME-DAY, TOO?

That's what I want to know.

Sincerely,

GI Joe. < missing context here :: generic soldier