Words.

There is no drift if there are no words. It is the simple and yet complex connotations of words that create a drift within a poem. Without the essence and meaning of words there is no rhyme, there is no scheme; there is no poem to be expressed. For Poets, words are the paint for their canvas, the doors that express their inner thoughts, observations and emotions (*watch the triplets, they must match in form. “their observations and emotions”.)*. However, it is the drift created by the arrangement of words artfully manipulated by their perspective sounds, meanings, and connotations that reaches out and is the life of the poem. Walt Whitman is not focused on the uniformity of the words in his poems, but rather he creating a drift through lack of organization, and the complexities of the words in which he lays out throughout the pages.

Explain drift. I’m not sure what it really is. Whittman uses the word “drift” poetically in his quote, so make his meaning clear in your essay.

In Walt Whitman’s poem “Sea Drift,” much like many of his other poems, he does not focus on the rhyme scheme or restricting conformities designed for poems. While reading Walt Whitman’s poem, a sense of liberty is expressed that fits *so* perfectly with his persona, *that is* expressed throughout the poem. What is most captivating about Whitman’s word choice is his restraint from using archaic diction or complex vocabulary but rather simple word choice. However, his selection of words is precise, creating a more powerful drift leaving a feeling of resignation *(resignation is an interesting word to describe the poems resolve. that might be the word you were looking for.)*.  Whitman artfully weaves a play on the subject such his description of the “child [who] wander’d alone…barefoot.” At first glance the poem appears to be speaking about an anonymous “child leaving his bed,” which then transcends to a mention of the word “brother.” As a reader, my first and second read-through made me feel as if he were reminiscing about the memory of a lost brother; however, at a closer read it feels as though he is revisiting his own memory *of himself* as a child, addressing the nuances of how childhood is not limited to the memory, but rather it is those memories during childhood that define us. The effective use of “child” and the use of “brother” allows for a connection to be built to the subject in order to create a nostalgic mood. The nostalgic mood is supported throughout the poem in order to describe a possible failure of an adolescent love affair. Whitman follows the song *in* which is incorporated within the phrase “ ‘Till of a sudden, May be kill’d… Nor return’d”. The tragedy of this affair, is described as a sudden death. *as* Whitman demonstrates this with a dramatic shift in tone from being joyful and amorous to being quickly, and dramatically tragic. Whitman confuses me because although he does continue to refer to himself as the “child”, he then repeats the reference to a brother. It seems to be, however, interchangeable with the music or song for which he speaks, which leads the reader to perceive that he maybe personifying the song to be a person. However, the fact that the song is not merely being personified but rather elevated to the status of a brother demonstrates Whitman’s close relationship with this song *he seems to indentify so closely with.* Whitman *in the song* constructs an analogy allowing for the ocean, its fierce yet gentle nature, to describe the passion of this “love” for which he addresses over and over again since the beginning of the poem.