

O Captain! My Captain!

by Walt Whitman

**O CAPTAIN! my Captain! our fearful trip is done;
The ship has weather'd every rack¹, the prize we sought² is won;
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,
While follow eyes the steady keel³, 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.**

1. **rack**: a mass of wind-driven clouds.

2. **sought**: searched for, tried to gain.

3. **keel**: the main part of a ship's structure.

**O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;
Rise up--for you the flag is flung⁴--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.**

4. flung: suddenly put out.

**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 tread⁵,
Walk the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.**

5. tread: footsteps

I Saw Old General at Bay

**by Walt Whitman
(1819-1892)**

I saw old General at bay,
(Old as he was, his gray eyes yet shone out in battle like stars,)
His small force was now completely hemm'd in, in his works,
He call'd for volunteers to run the enemy's lines, a desperate emergency,
I saw a hundred and more step forth from the ranks, but two or three
were selected,
I saw them receive their orders aside, they listen'd with care, the
adjutant was very grave,
I saw them depart with cheerfulness, freely risking their lives.