



**grammar dog.com**

grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

# **The Grammar Dog Guide to Song of Myself by Walt Whitman**

**All exercises use sentences from the poem.  
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.**

## About Grammardog

Grammardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Grammardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Grammardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



Grammardog.com L.L.C.  
P.O. Box 299  
Christoval, Texas 76935  
Phone: 325-896-2479  
Fax: 325-896-2676  
fifi@grammardog.com

Visit the website at [www.grammardog.com](http://www.grammardog.com)  
for a current listing of titles. We appreciate teachers' comments and suggestions.  
E-mail us at [fifi@grammardog.com](mailto:fifi@grammardog.com)

*Copyright © 2008 Grammardog.com L.L.C.  
Grammardog.com exercises may be reproduced for classroom and academic use only.  
Any other use requires express written permission of Grammardog.com.*

*SONG OF MYSELF* by Walt Whitman – Grammar and Style  
*All exercises use sentences from the poem.*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Exercise 1</b>	--	<b>Parts of Speech</b> <i>20 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>..... 3</b>
<b>Exercise 2</b>	--	<b>Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation</b> <i>12 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>..... 5</b>
<b>Exercise 3</b>	--	<b>Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation</b> <i>12 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>..... 6</b>
<b>Exercise 4</b>	--	<b>Simple, Compound, Complex Sentences</b> <i>20 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>..... 7</b>
<b>Exercise 5</b>	--	<b>Complements</b> <i>20 multiple choice questions on direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, and objects of prepositions</i>	<b>..... 9</b>
<b>Exercise 6</b>	--	<b>Phrases</b> <i>20 multiple choice questions on prepositional, appositive, gerund, infinitive, and participial phrases</i>	<b>..... 11</b>
<b>Exercises 7</b>	--	<b>Verbals: Gerunds, Infinitives, and Participles</b> <i>20 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>..... 13</b>
<b>Exercise 8</b>	--	<b>Clauses</b> <i>20 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>..... 15</b>

*SONG OF MYSELF* by Walt Whitman – Grammar and Style

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Exercise 9 --</b>	<b>Style: Figurative Language</b> <i>20 multiple choice questions on metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole</i>	<b>.... 17</b>
<b>Exercise 10 --</b>	<b>Style: Poetic Devices</b> <i>20 multiple choice questions on assonance, consonance, alliteration, repetition, and rhyme</i>	<b>.... 19</b>
<b>Exercise 11 --</b>	<b>Style: Sensory Imagery</b> <i>20 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>.... 21</b>
<b>Exercise 12 --</b>	<b>Style: Allusions and Symbols</b> <i>20 multiple choice questions on allusions to mythology, religion, astronomy, death, and folklore/superstition</i>	<b>.... 23</b>
<b>Exercise 13 --</b>	<b>Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 1</b> <i>6 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>.... 25</b>
<b>Exercise 14 --</b>	<b>Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 2</b> <i>6 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>.... 27</b>
<b>Exercise 15 --</b>	<b>Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 3</b> <i>6 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>.... 29</b>
<b>Exercise 16 --</b>	<b>Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 4</b> <i>6 multiple choice questions</i>	<b>.... 31</b>
<b>Answer Key</b>	<b>Answers to Exercises 1-16</b>	<b>.... 33</b>
<b>Glossary --</b>	<b>Definitions of Terms Used in Literary Analysis</b>	<b>.... 35</b>

*SONG OF MYSELF* by Walt Whitman – *SAMPLE*

**EXERCISE 5            COMPLEMENTS**

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*d.o. = direct object                      p.n. = predicate nominative            i.o. – indirect object*  
*o.p. = object of preposition            p.a. = predicate adjective*

- \_\_\_1.            The atmosphere is not a perfume, it has no taste of the distillation, it is odorless.
- \_\_\_2.            Clear and sweet is my soul, and clear and sweet is all that is not my soul.
- \_\_\_3.            Loaf with me on the grass, loose the stop from your throat.

**EXERCISE 6            PHRASES**

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*par = participial            ger = gerund            inf = infinitive            appos = appositive            prep = prepositional*

- \_\_\_1.            I loaf and invite my soul, I lean and loaf at my ease observing a spear of summer grass.
- \_\_\_2.            Have you felt so proud to get at the meaning of poems?
- \_\_\_3.            The spinning girl retreats and advances to the hum of the big wheel.

*SONG OF MYSELF* by Walt Whitman – Grammar and Style

**EXERCISE 9            STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*p = personification            s = simile            m = metaphor            o = onomatopoeia            h = hyperbole*

- \_\_\_1.            Only the lull I like, the hum of your valved voice.
- \_\_\_2.            . . . *What is the grass?* . . . I guess it must be the flag of my disposition, out of hopeful green stuff woven.
- \_\_\_3.            The wild gander leads his flock through the cool night, Ya-honk he says, and sounds it down to me like an invitation.

*SONG OF MYSELF* by Walt Whitman – *SAMPLE*

**EXERCISE 12      STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS**

Identify the type of allusion in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. *mythology*      b. *religion*      c. *astronomy*      d. *death*      e. *folklore/superstition*

- \_\_\_ 1.      You shall no longer take things at second or third hand, nor look through the eyes of the dead, nor feed on specters in books.
  
- \_\_\_ 2.      And I know that the hand of God is the promise of my own, and I know that the spirit of God is the brother of my own, and that all the men ever born are also my brothers, and the women my sisters and lovers.
  
- \_\_\_ 3.      The orchestra whirls me wider than Uranus flies.

**EXERCISE 13      STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1**

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

A child said What is the grass? fetching it to me with full hands,  
How could I answer the child? I do not know what it is any more than he.  
I guess it must be the flag of my disposition, out of hopeful green stuff woven.  
Or I guess it is the handkerchief of the Lord,  
A scented gift and remembrancer designedly dropped,  
Bearing the owner's name someway in the corners, that we may see and remark, and say Whose?  
Or I guess the grass itself a child, the produced babe of the vegetation.  
Or I guess it is a uniform hieroglyphic,  
And it means, Sprouting alike in broad zones and narrow zones,  
Growing among black folks as among white,  
Canuck, Tuckahoe, Congressman, Cuff, I give them the same, I receive them the same.  
And now it seems to me the beautiful uncut hair of graves. (6)

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- 1 A child said *What is the grass?* fetching it to me with full hands,
- 2 How could I answer the child? I do not know what it is any more than he.
- 3 I guess it must be the flag of my disposition, out of hopeful green stuff woven.
- 4 Or I guess it is the handkerchief of the Lord,
- 5 A scented gift and remembrancer designedly dropped,
- 6 Bearing the owner's name someway in the corners, that we may see and remark, and say *Whose?*
- 7 Or I guess the grass itself a child, the produced babe of the vegetation.

**SONG OF MYSELF by Walt Whitman – SAMPLE**

**8 Or I guess it is a uniform hieroglyphic,**

**9 And it means, Sprouting alike in broad zones and narrow zones,**

**10 Growing among black folks as among white,**

**11 Canuck, Tuckahoe, Congressman, Cuff, I give them the same, I receive them the same.**

**12 And now it seems to me the beautiful uncut hair of graves.**

- \_\_\_ 1.        **Metaphor is used to compare grass to ALL of the following EXCEPT . . .**  
**a. child   b. Congressman   c. handkerchief   d. hair**
- \_\_\_ 2.        **The underlined words in Line 5 are an example of . . .**  
**a. assonance   b. consonance   c. alliteration   d. rhyme**
- \_\_\_ 3.        **The use of *Or I guess* in Lines 7-8 is an example of . . .**  
**a. antiphrasis   b. anadiplosis   c. antimetabole   d. anaphora**