

Come Travel With Me and Song of the Open Road

A 7th-Grade Chorus Lesson

OBJECTIVE

The students will interrelate Poetry Concepts with a choral octavo, *Come Travel With Me*, by Scott Farthing inspired by Walt Whitman's *Song of the Open Road*.

ACTIVITIES

1. Present background information on Walt Whitman (who, where, when?)
2. Briefly describe Scott Farthing's connection.
3. Students read *Come Travel With Me* inside the choral octavo.
4. Students answer the following questions AFTER reading:
 - a. Is there anything about how the poem is written that is interesting or different? For example does author use any unusual punctuation?
 - b. Are there any specific words or lines that give a good picture or image in your head?
 - c. What are some of the major ideas the author wants you to think about after reading the poem?
 - d. What words or images help to set the mood or tone of the poem?
 - e. Does the poem contain any rhythm or rhyme that affects the mood or tone?
5. Students SING the song in unison using dynamic markings indicated in the octavo to "tell the story" portrayed by Walt Whitman's character.
6. Students begin learning *Come Travel With Me* in 3 vocal parts: S, A, B in preparation for Spring Concert.

ASSESSMENT

Teacher uses aural and visual assessment to check for intonation, correct diction, rhythm, and choral blend.

PRODUCT

Students' performance of *Come Travel With Me* will be showcased in the Hand MS Choral Spring Concert.