

Date - 14/5/2020

Day - Thursday -

(1)

Subject - English

WNO - 96

Class - BA part I

Paper - MB (50 marks)

Name of teacher - Dr. Jyotsna Kumari

Q/ show your acquaintance with the poem "O Captain! My Captain!" by Walt Whitman.

"O Captain! My Captain!" is an elegy written by Walt Whitman in 1865 to commemorate the death of President Abraham Lincoln. It was first published in *Drum-Taps* (1865) a collection of Whitman's poems inspired by the events of the American Civil War. The poem is perhaps Whitman's most famous which is ironic, since it is far more conventional in meter, form and subject ~~than~~ much of Whitman regretted ever writing "O Captain! My Captain!". It captured the mood of a nation in mourning and has remained one of Whitman's best-loved and most-quoted poems.

“O Captain! My Captain! celebrate²
the end of the American Civil
War, it is also an elegy for
President Abraham Lincoln.

Victory and loss are thus closely
entertwined throughout the
poem. On the other hand, its
mourning is tempered with
joyful reminders that the war
is won. Its celebrations, on the
other hand, are haunted by
melancholy. In this sense, Whitman's
poem illuminates the lingering
pain and trauma of losses
sustained in war — as well as
the impossibility of ever
separating the triumph of victory
from its human costs.