

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass

Walt Whitman Preface to Leaves of Grass: Unlocking the Spirit of American Poetry

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass is more than just an introduction to a poetry collection; it is a manifesto of a new poetic vision that redefined American literature. When Whitman published *Leaves of Grass* in 1855, the preface stood out as a bold declaration of his artistic purpose and philosophy. This preface not only sets the tone for the poems within but also reveals Whitman's revolutionary ideas about democracy, individuality, and the role of poetry in society.

Understanding the significance of the walt whitman preface to leaves of grass offers readers a deeper appreciation of his work and its lasting impact. Let's explore the key themes, stylistic choices, and cultural context that make this preface a cornerstone of American literary history.

The Revolutionary Spirit of Walt Whitman's Preface

Walt Whitman approached poetry with a fresh, unorthodox perspective, which is vividly captured in the preface to *Leaves of Grass*. Unlike the more formal and structured poetry of his time, Whitman's writing embraced free verse and a celebration of the individual's connection to the collective human experience. The preface acts as a poetic introduction that invites readers into this new world of expression.

Celebration of Democracy and the Common Man

One of the most profound elements in the preface is Whitman's emphasis on democracy. He envisioned poetry as a democratic art form, accessible to everyone, reflecting the voices of ordinary people rather than just the elite or aristocratic. His language champions inclusivity and the idea that every individual, regardless of background, contributes to the vast tapestry of America.

Whitman writes of the body and soul in a way that unites all people, underscoring his belief in equality and the shared human spirit. This democratic ethos was groundbreaking at a time when America was struggling with issues of slavery, social division, and identity.

Breaking Traditional Poetic Conventions

The Walt Whitman preface to *Leaves of Grass* also addresses Whitman's break from traditional poetic forms. He deliberately rejected rhyme schemes and meter, opting instead for a flowing, natural rhythm that mimics speech and the cadence of everyday life. This innovation allowed him to capture the vastness and diversity of American life more authentically.

Whitman's free verse style was initially controversial but later became a foundational influence on modern poetry. The preface gives readers insight into why he chose this style and how it aligns with his larger poetic goals.

Key Themes Explored in the Preface

The preface serves as a thematic roadmap for the entire *Leaves of Grass* collection. Understanding these themes helps readers grasp the depth and scope of Whitman's vision.

Individualism and the Universal Self

Whitman's poetry is deeply rooted in the celebration of the individual, yet it also emphasizes the interconnectedness of all people. The preface introduces this paradox by presenting the self as both unique and part of a greater whole. He encourages readers to see themselves as integral to the universe, embracing their own identity while recognizing their place within the broader human family.

Nature and the Body

Throughout the preface, Whitman elevates the physical body and the natural world, treating them with reverence and awe. This was a departure from the more spiritual or abstract treatments common in earlier poetry. He presents the body as sacred and a source of truth, reflecting his belief in the unity of the physical and spiritual realms.

This theme resonates strongly with readers who feel a connection to nature and the human experience in a more immediate, sensory way.

The Poet as a Prophet and Voice of the People

Whitman saw the poet not just as a creator of art but as a visionary figure who could speak to and for society. The preface positions the poet as a

prophet who channels the collective consciousness and helps guide the nation's cultural and moral evolution.

This elevated role of the poet underscores the importance of poetry beyond entertainment; it is a tool for social change and understanding.

Stylistic Features of the Preface

Analyzing the style of the Walt Whitman preface to *Leaves of Grass* reveals how Whitman's choices reinforce his themes.

Use of Repetition and Parallelism

Whitman employs repetition and parallel structures to create a hypnotic and rhythmic effect that draws readers in. This technique helps to emphasize key ideas while mimicking the natural patterns of speech and thought.

Direct and Conversational Tone

Unlike the lofty and distant tone typical of some predecessors, Whitman's preface speaks directly to the reader. This conversational style establishes a personal connection and invites readers to participate in the poetic journey.

Embracing Ambiguity and Open Interpretation

Whitman's language is often broad and inclusive, allowing for multiple interpretations. This openness reflects his democratic ideals and invites readers from all walks of life to find their own meaning within his words.

Historical and Cultural Context of the Preface

To fully appreciate the Walt Whitman preface to *Leaves of Grass*, it helps to situate it within the mid-19th century American context.

America on the Brink of Transformation

The 1850s were a turbulent decade marked by debates over slavery, expanding frontiers, and the search for a national identity. Whitman's poetry captured

the optimism and contradictions of this era, offering a vision for a united and evolving America.

Literary Landscape and Whitman's Innovation

Before *Leaves of Grass*, American poetry was heavily influenced by European traditions. Whitman's preface signaled a break from these conventions, asserting a distinctly American voice that was raw, expansive, and democratic.

Why the Preface Remains Relevant Today

More than 150 years later, the Walt Whitman preface to *Leaves of Grass* continues to inspire poets, scholars, and readers. Its themes of inclusivity, individuality, and connection resonate in today's diverse and fast-changing world.

For those studying American literature or poetry, the preface serves as a masterclass in how language can be reinvented to reflect new ideas and social realities. It also encourages readers to embrace their own voices and experiences as worthy of poetic exploration.

Exploring the preface can also provide practical insight for writers interested in free verse, narrative poetry, or poetry that engages with social issues. Whitman's fearless experimentation offers a model for breaking boundaries while maintaining a strong emotional core.

Walt Whitman's preface to *Leaves of Grass* remains a testament to the power of poetry to capture the spirit of an age and to speak directly to the human soul. It invites each reader to embark on a journey of self-discovery and collective identity, making it an enduring piece of literary art that continues to shape the way we understand poetry and ourselves.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of Walt Whitman's Preface to *Leaves of Grass*?

The Preface to *Leaves of Grass* serves as Walt Whitman's manifesto, outlining his poetic vision, themes of democracy, individuality, and the interconnectedness of all life, establishing the foundation for the entire collection.

How does Whitman describe his poetic style in the Preface to Leaves of Grass?

Whitman describes his poetic style as free verse and expansive, emphasizing a natural, organic form that breaks away from traditional rhyme and meter to capture the rhythms of everyday speech and the American experience.

What themes are introduced in the Preface to Leaves of Grass?

Key themes introduced include the celebration of the self and the body, the unity of humanity, democracy, nature, and the spiritual connection between the individual and the universe.

Why did Whitman revise the Preface to Leaves of Grass multiple times?

Whitman revised the Preface multiple times to reflect his evolving thoughts and to respond to changing social and political contexts, ensuring his poetic philosophy remained relevant and resonant throughout his life.

How does the Preface to Leaves of Grass reflect the American identity?

The Preface reflects the American identity by embracing diversity, individualism, and democracy, portraying America as a vibrant, inclusive, and dynamic society where every voice and experience contributes to the national narrative.

Additional Resources

Walt Whitman Preface to Leaves of Grass: An In-Depth Exploration of Innovation and Identity

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass stands as a seminal piece in American literary history, marking a radical departure from traditional poetic forms and themes. Through this preface, Whitman not only introduces his groundbreaking collection but also sets forth a visionary manifesto that challenges prevailing cultural norms and redefines the role of the poet in society. This article delves into the complexities of the preface, examining its thematic depth, stylistic innovations, and enduring influence, while integrating relevant insights to illuminate why it remains a focal point for scholars, poets, and enthusiasts alike.

Contextualizing the Walt Whitman Preface to Leaves of Grass

Published initially in 1855, *Leaves of Grass* was unlike anything the literary world had seen. Whitman's preface serves as both an introduction and a declaration of intent, outlining the philosophical and aesthetic principles that underpin his work. Unlike conventional prefaces that typically summarize or promote the text, Whitman's is a standalone poetic statement that foregrounds his democratic ideals and his embrace of the human body and soul.

The mid-19th century was a time of intense transformation in America—socially, politically, and culturally. Whitman's preface reflects this dynamic era, positioning poetry as a force for unity and progress. His vision was one of inclusivity, celebrating the diverse voices and experiences that constitute the American identity. This approach was not only innovative but also controversial, as it challenged the rigid literary standards and moral conventions of the time.

Key Themes in the Walt Whitman Preface to Leaves of Grass

The preface is rich with thematic elements that reveal Whitman's worldview. Central among these is the idea of the poet as a prophet or seer, who channels the collective consciousness of the people. Whitman writes in a style that blurs the boundaries between the individual and the universal, suggesting an intrinsic connection between the self and the broader human experience.

Another prominent theme is the celebration of the body and nature. Whitman's approach was revolutionary in its open sensuality and affirmation of the physical form, rejecting the prudishness that dominated much of Victorian literature. This emphasis on the corporeal is intertwined with a spiritual transcendence, as Whitman perceives the body as a gateway to understanding the soul and the cosmos.

Democracy and equality are also pivotal to the preface. Whitman's poetry seeks to democratize literature by elevating everyday language and ordinary people. He champions the idea that poetry should be accessible and that the poet's voice belongs not to an elite, but to the collective populace.

Stylistic Innovations and Literary Techniques

Whitman's preface to *Leaves of Grass* is as much a stylistic revolution as it is a thematic one. His use of free verse broke away from the strict meter and rhyme schemes that characterized 19th-century poetry. This liberated form

allowed for a more expansive and organic expression, mirroring the boundless nature of his subjects.

The preface employs repetition and parallelism extensively, creating a rhythmic cadence that reinforces its oratory quality. This technique also serves to emphasize key ideas, making the text resonate like a chant or hymn. Whitman's diction is deliberately simple yet expansive, encompassing a wide range of human experience without resorting to overly ornate language.

Imagery in the preface is vivid and often symbolic, drawing heavily on natural elements such as grass, earth, and sky to evoke a sense of interconnectedness. The metaphor of "leaves of grass" itself suggests multiplicity and growth, encapsulating Whitman's vision of poetry as a living, evolving entity.

The Role of the Poet and Poetry According to Whitman

Within the preface, Whitman articulates a transformative vision of the poet's role. He rejects the notion of the poet as a distant, detached figure, instead portraying the poet as an integral participant in the fabric of life. The poet, in Whitman's conception, is a representative of the common man, a voice for the collective soul.

This democratization extends to the function of poetry itself. Whitman envisions poetry as a unifying force that transcends social and racial divides, fostering a shared sense of humanity. The poet's task is to capture the vastness of experience, embracing all facets of existence—from the mundane to the sublime.

Moreover, Whitman's preface stresses the importance of authenticity and individualism. The poet must be true to their own voice and experience, resisting conformity. This emphasis on self-expression was a radical departure from the prevailing literary culture, which often prioritized imitation and adherence to classical models.

The Impact and Legacy of the Preface

The *Walt Whitman Preface to Leaves of Grass* has had a profound impact on both American and global literature. It laid the groundwork for modernist and contemporary poetry by legitimizing free verse and expanding the thematic scope of poetic expression. Whitman's celebration of democracy and individuality resonated deeply with subsequent generations, influencing writers, artists, and thinkers.

Despite its acclaim, the preface and *Leaves of Grass* initially faced criticism and censorship due to their candid treatment of sexuality and unconventional style. However, over time, these elements have been recognized

as hallmarks of Whitman's genius, contributing to the text's enduring relevance.

The preface also invites ongoing scholarly debate. Critics analyze its complex relationship with themes of identity, nationalism, and spirituality, often contextualizing it within broader social and historical frameworks. Its layered meanings continue to inspire reinterpretation and reevaluation.

Comparisons with Contemporary Literary Prefaces

When juxtaposed with other 19th-century literary prefaces, Whitman's stands out for its poetic form and ideological boldness. Traditional prefaces by contemporaries such as Ralph Waldo Emerson or Nathaniel Hawthorne tend to be prose-based and more reserved in tone, focusing on literary context or authorial intent rather than serving as a poetic manifesto.

Whitman's approach challenges the reader to engage with the preface as an artistic work in its own right, blurring the line between introduction and primary text. This innovation has influenced how modern authors conceive of the preface or introduction, encouraging more creative and thematic explorations.

Exploring the Language and Symbolism

The language in the **walt whitman preface to leaves of grass** is deliberately expansive and inclusive, reflecting Whitman's ambition to encompass the entirety of human experience. The symbolism of grass is particularly potent; it represents the common, the natural, and the eternal cycle of life and death. Grass, in its simplicity and ubiquity, becomes a metaphor for the democratic spirit and the interconnectedness of all beings.

Whitman's use of first-person narration is also significant. By employing "I" extensively, he personalizes the collective voice, embodying the unity of individual and society. This narrative technique invites readers into an intimate dialogue, fostering a sense of participation rather than passive observation.

- **Grass as metaphor:** Signifies democracy, natural cycles, and universality.
- **First-person voice:** Blends individual and collective identity.
- **Free verse:** Enables fluid, organic exploration of themes.
- **Repetition:** Creates musicality and emphasis on core ideas.

Challenges and Criticisms

While Whitman's preface is widely celebrated, it has not been without critique. Some scholars argue that its lofty idealism glosses over social inequalities and complexities of American life in the 19th century. Additionally, the unorthodox style initially alienated more traditional readers and critics who viewed it as lacking discipline or coherence.

The candid treatment of sensuality and the body also sparked controversy, leading to accusations of indecency. However, these elements are now understood as integral to Whitman's project of expanding the scope of poetic subject matter and breaking taboos.

Rather than detracting from the text, these challenges highlight the preface's role as a catalyst for ongoing conversations about literature's capacity to reflect and shape societal values.

Ultimately, the *walt whitman preface to leaves of grass* remains a transformative text that continues to captivate and provoke. Its fusion of poetic innovation, democratic ethos, and profound spirituality offers a timeless invitation to reimagine the possibilities of poetry and identity. As contemporary readers engage with Whitman's words, they encounter a work that is both a product of its time and a visionary blueprint for the future of literary expression.

Walt Whitman Preface To Leaves Of Grass

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: American Bard Walt Whitman, William Everson, 1982

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: Leaves of Grass Walt Whitman, 2011-01-01 NMD Books is proud to publish this complete and unabridged Special Collectors Edition of the final Deathbed Version of Walt Whitman's literary classic, Leaves Of Grass. (1892), and includes a Preface to the original 1855 Edition by Whitman himself. Leaves of Grass has its genesis in an essay called The Poet by Ralph Waldo Emerson, published in 1845, which expressed the need for the United States to have its own new and unique poet to write about the new country's virtues and vices. Whitman, reading the essay, consciously set out to answer Emerson's call as he began work on the first edition of Leaves of Grass. Few works of literature have as controversial and difficult a history. Unable to find a publisher willing to take on his pioneering and unusual work, he initially self-published it in 1855. Throughout its turbulent history, the book was both praised and reviled by critics, many of whom took issue with its occasional emphasis on sensuality and references to same-sex attraction, something that was considered taboo during the mid-to-late 1800's. Eventually, 'Leaves of Grass' was accepted as a groundbreaking and innovative work of literary art, one which inspired other poets to express more universal themes of love, attraction, and

stream-of-consciousness imagery. Whitman continued to write and re-write *Leaves of Grass* until his death in 1892, and by the time this last edition was completed, the manuscript had grown from a small book of 12 poems to a hefty tome of almost 400 poems. It has since enjoyed massive success and stood the test of time to become one of the greatest literary works of all time and taken its rightful place in literary history. The most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom America has yet contributed - Ralph Waldo Emerson A work of great beauty, power and imagination. - Saturday Evening Post Alive with the mythical strength and vitality that epitomized the American experience in the nineteenth century, *Leaves of Grass* continues to inspire, uplift, and unite those who read it. - New York Times

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walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: *Leaves of Grass* Walt Whitman, 2018-10-02 A timeless collection of hundreds of poems that resonate to the American spirit. *Leaves of Grass* is a timeless collection of poems and essays penned by influential nineteenth-century writer Walt Whitman. This profound compilation explores topics such as nature, mysticism, mortality, transcendentalism, and democracy. Inspired by personal experiences and observations, Whitman spent almost four decades piecing together the complete work, sharing societal ideals and epiphanies about life that still resonate with readers today. This edition of the complete *Leaves of Grass* also includes Whitman's preface to the original 1855 edition, in which he expounds on his personal philosophy of writing poetry, and an introduction by scholar Kenneth C. Mondschein.

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: *Leaves of Grass* Walt Whitman, 1961-07-10 "I am large, I contain multitudes" A Penguin Classic When Walt Whitman self-published his *Leaves of Grass* in July 1855, he altered the course of literary history. One of the greatest masterpieces of American literature, it redefined the rules of poetry while describing the soul of the American character. Throughout his great career, Whitman continuously revised, expanded, and republished *Leaves of Grass*, but many critics believe that the book that matters most is the 1855 original. Penguin Classics proudly presents that text in its original and complete form, with an introductory essay by the writer and poet Malcolm Cowley. "I celebrate myself, and sing myself, And what I assume you shall assume, For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you." For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: *Leaves of Grass* - Walt Whitman, 2008-11

PREFACE. THE Author of this very practical treatise on Scotch Loch - Fishing desires clearly that it may be of use to all who had it. He does not pretend to have written anything new, but to have attempted to put what he has to say in as readable a form as possible. Everything in the way of the history and habits of fish has been studiously avoided, and technicalities have been used as sparingly as possible. The writing of this book has afforded him pleasure in his leisure moments, and that pleasure would be much increased if he knew that the perusal of it would create any bond of sympathy between himself and the angling community in general. This section is interleaved with blank sheets for the readers notes. The Author need hardly say that any suggestions addressed to the case of the publishers, will meet with consideration in a future edition. We do not pretend to write or enlarge upon a new subject. Much has been said and written-and well said and written too on the art of fishing but loch-fishing has been rather looked upon as a second-rate performance, and to dispel this idea is one of the objects for which this present treatise has been written. Far be it from us to say anything against fishing, lawfully practised in any form but many pent up in our large towns will bear us out when we say that, on the whole, a days loch-fishing is the most convenient. One great matter is, that the loch-fisher is depend- ent on nothing but enough wind to curl the water, -and on a large loch it is very seldom that a dead calm prevails all day, -and can make his

arrangements for a day, weeks beforehand whereas the stream-fisher is dependent for a good take on the state of the water and however pleasant and easy it may be for one living near the banks of a good trout stream or river, it is quite another matter to arrange for a days river-fishing, if one is looking forward to a holiday at a date some weeks ahead. Providence may favour the expectant angler with a good day, and the water in order but experience has taught most of us that the good days are in the minority, and that, as is the case with our rapid running streams, -such as many of our northern streams are, -the water is either too large or too small, unless, as previously remarked, you live near at hand, and can catch it at its best. A common belief in regard to loch-fishing is, that the tyro and the experienced angler have nearly the same chance in fishing, -the one from the stern and the other from the bow of the same boat. Of all the absurd beliefs as to loch-fishing, this is one of the most absurd. Try it. Give the tyro either end of the boat he likes give him a cast of ally flies he may fancy, or even a cast similar to those which a crack may be using and if he catches one for every three the other has, he may consider himself very lucky. Of course there are lochs where the fish are not abundant, and a beginner may come across as many as an older fisher but we speak of lochs where there are fish to be caught, and where each has a fair chance. Again, it is said that the boatman has as much to do with catching trout in a loch as the angler. Well, we dont deny that. In an untried loch it is necessary to have the guidance of a good boatman but the same argument holds good as to stream-fishing...

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: *Leaves of Grass* Walt Whitman, 2018-06-08 *Leaves of Grass* Volume 2 By Walt Whitman 'I celebrate myself, And what I assume you shall assume, For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you. I loafe and invite my soul, I lean and loafe at my ease....observing a spear of summer grass.' So begins *Leaves of Grass*, the first great American poem and indeed, to this day, the greatest and most essentially American poem in all our national literature. The publication of *Leaves of Grass* in July 1855 was a landmark event in literary history. Ralph Waldo Emerson judged the book 'the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom America has yet contributed.' Nothing like the volume had ever appeared before. Everything about it-the unusual jacket and title page, the exuberant preface, the twelve free-flowing, untitled poems embracing every realm of experience-was new. The 1855 edition broke new ground in its relaxed style, which prefigured free verse; in its sexual candor; in its images of racial bonding and democratic togetherness; and in the intensity of its affirmation of the sanctity of the physical world. We are delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive Classic Library collection. Many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades, and therefore have not been accessible to the general public. The aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature, and our view is that this is a significant literary work, which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades. The contents of the vast majority of titles in the Classic Library have been scanned from the original works. To ensure a high quality product, each title has been meticulously hand curated by our staff. Our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with a book that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work. We hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic work, and that for you it becomes an enriching experience.

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass Walt Whitman, 2005-04-15 As featured in AMC's *Breaking Bad*, given by Gale Boetticher to Walter White and discovered by Hank Schrader. 'I celebrate myself, And what I assume you shall assume, For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you. I loafe and invite my soul, I lean and loafe at my ease....observing a spear of summer grass.' So begins *Leaves of Grass*, the first great American poem and indeed, to this day, the greatest and most essentially American poem in all our national literature. The publication of *Leaves of Grass* in July 1855 was a landmark event in literary history. Ralph Waldo Emerson judged the book the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom America has yet contributed. Nothing like the volume had ever appeared before. Everything about it-the unusual jacket and title page, the exuberant preface, the twelve free-flowing, untitled poems embracing every realm of experience--was new. The 1855 edition broke new ground in its relaxed style, which prefigured free verse; in its sexual candor; in its images of racial bonding and democratic

togetherness; and in the intensity of its affirmation of the sanctity of the physical world. This Anniversary Edition captures the typeface, design and layout of the original edition supervised by Whitman himself. Today's readers get a sense of the ur-text of *Leaves of Grass*, the first version of this historic volume, before Whitman made many revisions of both format and style. The volume also boasts an afterword by Whitman authority David Reynolds, in which he discusses the 1855 edition in its social and cultural contexts: its background, its reception, and its contributions to literary history. There is also an appendix containing the early responses to the volume, including Emerson's letter, Whitman's three self-reviews, and the twenty other known reviews published in various newspapers and magazines. This special volume will be a must-have keepsake for fans of Whitman and lovers of American poetry.

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Kummings, 2009-10-19 Comprising more than 30 substantial essays written by leading scholars, this companion constitutes an exceptionally broad-ranging and in-depth guide to one of America's greatest poets. Makes the best and most up-to-date thinking on Whitman available to students Designed to make readers more aware of the social and cultural contexts of Whitman's work, and of the experimental nature of his writing Includes contributions devoted to specific poetry and prose works, a compact biography of the poet, and a bibliography

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: *Prefaces and Prologues to Famous Books*, 1910

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: *Leaves of grass* [by W. Whitman]. Walt Whitman, 1860

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: *Critical Companion to Walt Whitman* Charles M.

Oliver, 2005 Presents a complete reference to the life and works of Walt Whitman.

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: *New World Metaphysics* Giles Gunn, 1981-06-04

From the days of discovery, when America was for Europeans more dream than reality, to our own days of disillusionment and faltering hope, poets, philosophers, historians, novelists, and theologians have drawn on religious themes and images to express the meaning of their encounter with America. Here, in more than one hundred selections, is the record of their quest for a New World metaphysics -- a spiritual vision or ultimate idea of order expressive of the American experience.

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Kummings, 1998 Includes almost 760 entries ranging in length from 3,100 words on the first (1855) edition of *Leaves of Grass* to 140 words on Elizabeth Leavitt Keller. Entries include biographical data; thematic, formal and technical considerations; discussions of the poet's social and personal life; and commentary on all of Whitman's works, including poem clusters, major poems, essays, and lesser known works such as the novel *Franklin Evans* and two dozen short stories. A chronology and genealogy are included. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Walt Whitman* J.R.

LeMaster, Donald Kummings, 2013-09-05 The Routledge Encyclopedia of Walt Whitman presents a comprehensive resource compiled by over 200 internationally recognized contributors, including such leading Whitman scholars as James E. Miller, Jr., Roger Asselineau, Betsy Erkkila, and Joel Myerson. Now available for the first time in paperback, this volume comprises more than 750 entries arranged in convenient alphabetical format. Coverage includes: biographical information: all names, dates, places, and events important to understanding Whitman's life and career Whitman's works: essays on all eight editions of *Leaves of Grass*, major poems and poem clusters, principal essays and prose works, as well as his more than two dozen short stories and the novel, *Franklin Evans* prominent themes and concepts: essays on such major topics as democracy, slavery, the Civil War, immortality, sexuality, and the women's rights movement. significant forms and techniques: such as prosody, symbolism, free verse, and humour important trends and critical approaches in Whitman studies: including new historicist and cultural criticism, psychological explorations, and controversial issues of sexual identity surveys of Whitman's international impact as well as an

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walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: Preface Exerpt from Leaves of Grass Walt Whitman, 2017 Miniature book with an exerpt of the preface of the 1855 edition of Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass.

walt whitman preface to leaves of grass: Leaves of Grass Walt Whitman, 2012-03-01
Whitman's immortal collection includes some of the greatest poems of modern times, including his masterpiece, Song of Myself. Shattering standard conventions, it stands as an unabashed celebration of body and nature.

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