Walt Whitman

Walt Whitman was born on May 31, 1819 and lived in Brooklyn and Long Island New York. He lived with his father Walter Whitman and his mother Louisa Van Velsor. When Whitman was twelve, he discovered his passion for words. Some of his favorite poets included, Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, and even the bible. Whitman began working as a printer in New York City until a fire in the printing district destroyed the industry. In 1836 when he was 17, he began his career as teacher in the one-room school houses in Long Island. He continued to teach until 1841, until he decided to switch to journalism as a full-time career.

 #1 A clear midnight

This is thy hour O Soul, thy free flight into the wordless, Away from books, away from art, the day erased, the lesson done, Thee fully forth emerging, silent, gazing, pondering the themes thou lovest best. Night, sleep, and the stars.

#2 come said my soul

Come, said my soul, Such verses for my body let us write, (for we are one),

That should i after death invisibly return,

Or, long, long hence, in other spheres,

There to some group of mates the chants resuming,

(tallying earth's soil, trees, winds, tumultuous waves,)

Ever with pleas'd smile i may keep on,

Ever and ever yet the verses owning--as, first, i here and now,

Signing for soul and body, set to them my name