

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Comparing Two American Poems:

## “I Hear America Singing” and “Let America Be America Again”

**Directions:** With “I Hear America Singing” and “Let America Be America Again,” Walt Whitman and Langston Hughes, respectively, composed distinctly American poems. In what ways were their approaches similar? In what ways were they different?

Find words or lines in “I Hear America Singing” and “Let America Be America Again” to support the statements indicated in the chart below. Fill in the appropriate box with the evidence you gather. You may find that a few of the statements are not supported by evidence in the poem at all. Or, they may be contradicted by the poem. If the detail given is not supported or is contradicted, check the box in the far right-hand column.

Statements	“I Hear America Singing”	“Let America Be America Again”	Not in either poem (CHECK BOX ONLY.)
The poem relates a personal experience.			
The poem relates common experiences.			
The poem “go(es) with drivers and boatmen.”			
The poet explicitly states the message of the poem.			
The poem describes a variety of events, many of which could be happening at the same time.			
The poet uses elevated language.			
The poet uses the language of the poem’s subjects.			