

I Hear America Singing  
Walt Whitman

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,  
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,  
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,  
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,  
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deckhand  
    singing on the steamboat deck,  
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as  
    he stands,  
The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's on his way in the morning,  
    or at noon intermission or at sundown,  
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work,  
    or of the girl sewing or washing,  
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,  
The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young  
    fellows, robust, friendly,  
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.

Works Cited:

[http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1322/1322-h/1322-h.htm#2H\\_4\\_0019](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1322/1322-h/1322-h.htm#2H_4_0019)

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Questions:

1. What occupations does the speaker say represent America? What do these occupations tell you about Whitman's view of his country?
2. According to line 9, what does each laborer sing about? What do the laborers' "songs" suggest about the work they do?
3. What does the speaker suggest happens at night? Why do you think the poem ends the way it does?