

Student _____ Date _____

“Beat! Beat! Drums!” by Walt Whitman: Say-Mean-Matter Organizer

Question To Think About	Say Quote—words or phrases—from the text that support your answer or interpretation	Mean What does the author mean? Answer the question in your own words	Matter Why is this important? What is the significance to the entire poem?
What are some of the images in the poem? What is the message Whitman is trying to convey with the image?			
Is Whitman romanticizing and idealizing the subject or is the poem expressing a positive and realistic aspect of American life? Consider what you know about the context—the lead up to the Civil War.			
What parallel structure can you find repeated in the poem? This poem uses parallel structure to create a kind of rhythm.			

Question	Say	Mean	Matter
What are at least two examples of cataloging that Whitman uses? How does this cataloging contribute to the meaning of the poem?			
What are at least two examples of repetition in the poem? What does repetition add to the poem?			