

# I hear America singing

by  
WALTER WHITMAN

illustrated by

MARGHERITA NE' ALLEGRA

I have always loved drawing; art is the best way I ever had to express myself. I think that sometimes an image, a picture, is able to hit you more than everything else. I think that the way colours mix all together in order to create a picture is very enigmatic, and I can't really get how it works, but, when I see them all on a picture, it suddenly makes sense to me.

For this work I've decided to make a portfolio of drawings, representing all the characters mentioned in the poem 'I hear America singing' written by W. Whitman. I wanted every character to show his peculiarities; for this reason, even if in the poem they are all singing, in the drawings I've made they are just doing their specific jobs.

To represent also the idea of the big choir singing the song of America, I draw a little red musical note in this page. From that single musical note starts a thread that links all the characters together. As the matter of fact, every character is holding the thread somehow.

The last page is all red, to symbolize the end of the poem, in which all the characters sing together, and the choir resound intensely.

I hope you'll enjoy flipping through the portfolio.

Margherita



I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,

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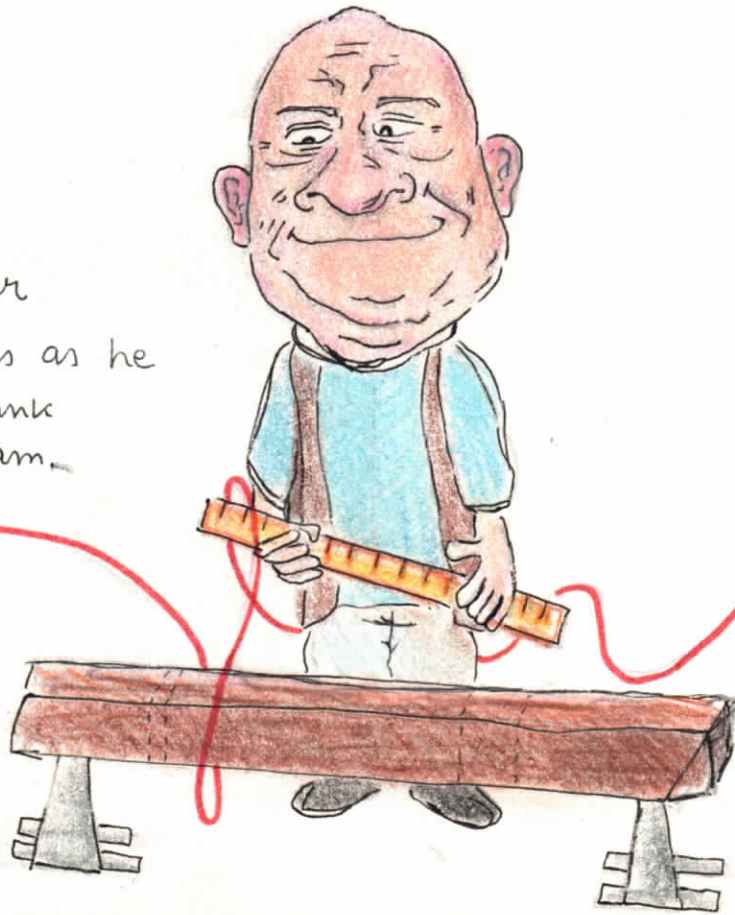
those of  
each one

as it should  
and

Mechanics,  
singing his  
be like  
strong



the carpenter  
singing his as he  
measures his plank  
or beam.



FINALLY  
FINISHED...



the manson  
singing his as he  
makes  
ready for work,  
or leaves off work

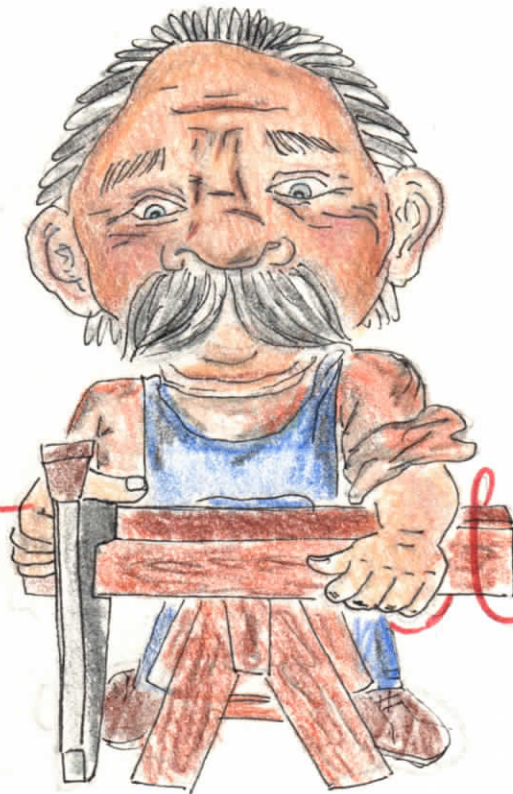
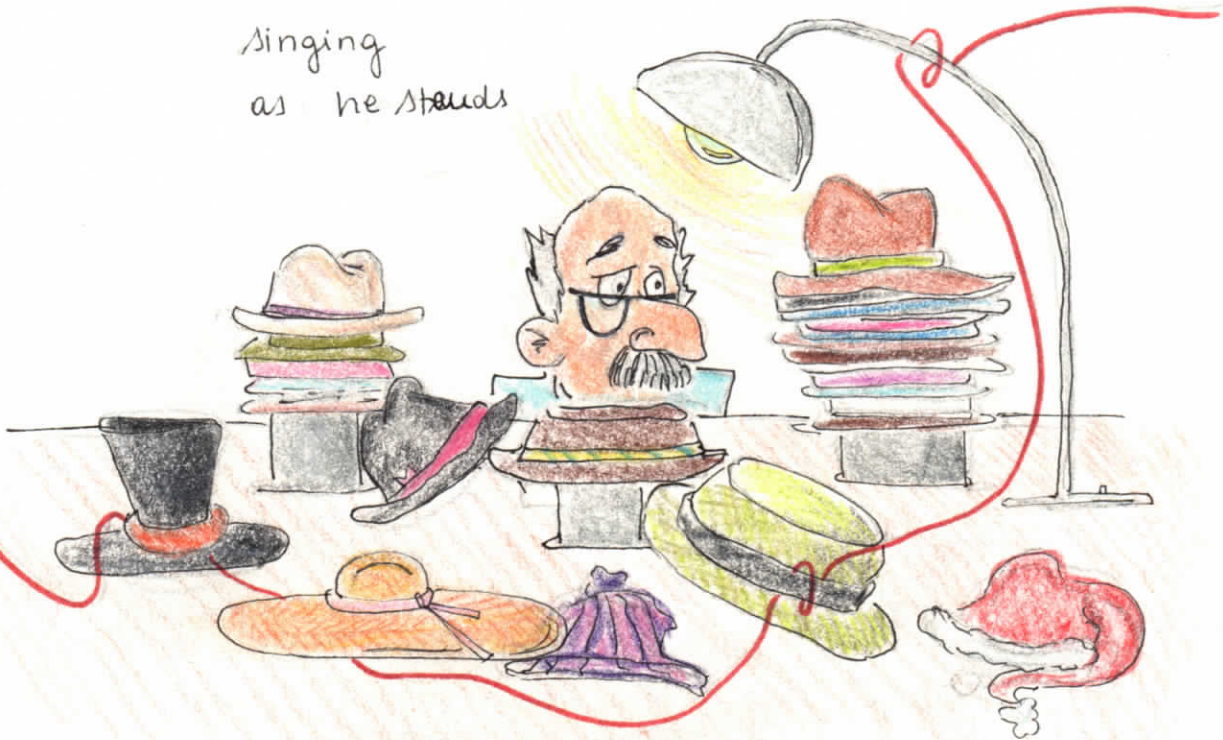
the boatman singing what belongs to him in  
his boat, the deckhand singing  
on the steamboat  
deck



the shoemaker singing as he sits  
on his bench



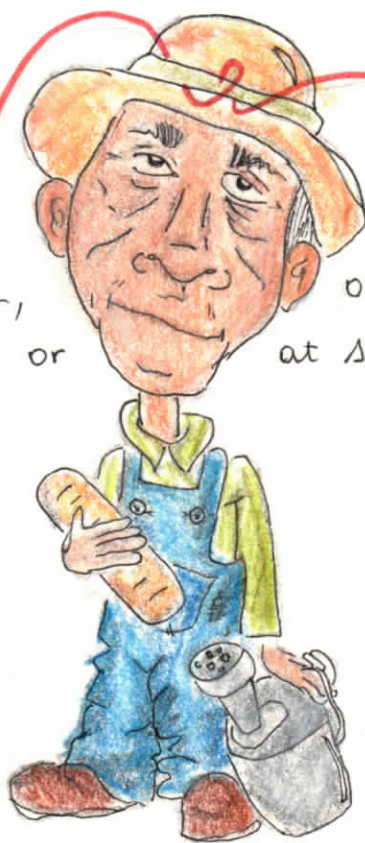
the hatter  
singing  
as he stands



the wood-cutter's song,

the ploughboy's  
in the morning,  
intermission or

on his way  
or at noon  
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.