

May

16. Walt Whitman Bicentennial (May 31): You Shall Possess

After losing his job as editor of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle because of his abolitionist sentiment and his support of the Free Soil movement, Whitman self-published an early edition of *Leaves of Grass* in 1855 with Rome Brothers. Except for his own anonymous reviews, the early edition of the book received little attention.



One notable exception was Ralph Waldo Emerson, who praised *Leaves of Grass* in a letter to Whitman, saying "I greet you at the beginning of a great career."

In "You Shall Possess" Whitman tells us to be true to ourselves:

*"You shall possess the good of the earth and sun, (there are millions of suns left,)
You shall no longer take things at second or third hand, nor look through the eyes of the dead, nor feed on the spectres in books,
You shall not look through my eyes either, nor take things from me,
You shall listen to all sides and filter them from your self."*

to Judy Ghoneim
You Shall Possess

Walt Whitman
(from *Song of Myself*)

for mixed chorus and piano

Wally Kleucker

Tenderly, with movement (M.M. ♩ = c. 128)

Soprano
Alto

p

You shall pos - sess The or-i-gin of all poems.

Tenor
Bass

Tenderly, with movement (M.M. ♩ = c. 128)

Piano

p

You shall pos - sess The or-i-gin of all poems.

6

S
A

p

You shall pos - sess the good of earth and the sun:

T
B

Pno.

11

S
A

mf

You shall pos - sess The or-i-gin of all poems.

T
B

p *mf*

You shall pos - sess The or-i-gin of all poems.

Pno.

mf

You shall pos - sess The or-i-gin of all poems.

You Shall Possess

16

S
A

T
B

Pno.

You shall pos - sess the good of earth and the sun. There are
sess the good of earth and the sun: There are

21

S
A

T
B

Pno.

mil - lions of suns left. There are mil - lions
mil - lions of suns left. There are mil - lions

26

S
A

T
B

Pno.

of suns. You shall no long - er take things at
of suns. You shall no long - er

You Shall Possess

31

S
A

se- cond or third hand, nor look through the eyes of the dead, nor feed on spec- ters in

T
B

take things at se- cond or third hand, nor look through the eyes of the dead.

Pno.

36

S
A

f books. *mf* nor look through the

T
B

mf You shall no long - er take things at se- cond or third hand,

Pno.

mf

41

S
A

eyes of the dead, nor feed on spec- ters in books.

T
B

nor feed on spec- ters in books.

Pno.

mp

You Shall Possess

46

S A *mf*
You shall not

T B *mf*
You shall not

Pno. *f*

51

S A *mf*
look Through my eyes ei - ther, nor -

T B *mf*
look Through my eyes ei - ther, nor take

Pno.

56

S A *f* *mf*
take things from me. You shall lis - ten

T B *f* *mf*
things from me. You shall lis - ten

Pno. *f* *mf*

You Shall Possess

61

S
A

to all sides and fil - ter them from your -

T
B

to all sides and fil - ter them from your -

Pno.

66

S
A

self. You shall lis - ten to all sides

T
B

self. You shall lis - ten to all sides

Pno.

f

71

S
A

and fil - ter them from your - self.

T
B

and fil - ter them from your - self.

Pno.

f

You Shall Possess

76

S
A

T
B

Pno.

76

81

S
A

T
B

Pno.

81

S
A

T
B

Pno.

86

S
A

T
B

Pno.

p *mf* *rit.*

You shall pos - sess the__or-i-gin of

mp *rit.*

You shall pos - sess

f *ff* *broadly* *rit.*

all__ poems__ You shall pos - sess.

f *ff* *broadly* *rit.*

the__ earth__ and the sun You shall pos - sess.