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21L.004 Reading Poetry

Spring 2009

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Beginning My Studies

From Leaves of Grass, 1891 – 92

by Whitman, Walt

Beginning my studies the first step pleas'd me so much,
The mere fact consciousness, these forms, the power of motion,
The least insect or animal, the senses, eyesight, love,
The first step I say awed me and pleas'd me so much,
I have hardly gone and hardly wished to go any farther,
But stop and loiter all the time to sing it in ecstatic songs.

Walt Whitman