***O Me! O Life!***

By [Walt Whitman](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/walt-whitman)

*Oh me! Oh life! of the questions of these recurring,*

*Of the endless trains of the faithless, of cities fill’d with the foolish,*

*Of myself forever reproaching myself, (for who more foolish than I, and who more faithless?)*

*Of eyes that vainly crave the light, of the objects mean, of the struggle ever renew’d,*

*Of the poor results of all, of the plodding and sordid crowds I see around me,*

*Of the empty and useless years of the rest, with the rest me intertwined,*

*The question, O me! so sad, recurring—What good amid these, O me, O life?*

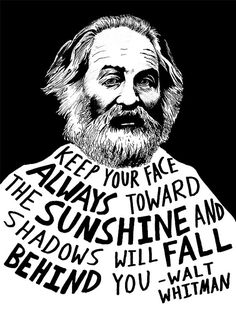
*Answer.*

*That you are here—that life exists and identity,*

*That the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse.*

(written in 1892)

**What background information would be useful to understand this poem?**

**Find the following *figurative devices* and label on the poem:**

* **Metaphors**
* **Apostrophe**
* **Symbolism**
* **Allusion (to Shakespeare)**

**Find the following *lyrical* devices:**

* **Alliteration**
* **Consonance**
* **assonance**

**What is the structure of this poem?**

**What is the *tone* of this poem? (Hint: it changes)**

**What is the *literal meaning* of this poem?**

**Why does Mr. Keating quote this poem? What was his intent?**