

# TAKE HEART

A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

In this week's short poem for baseball season, Edward Rielly of Westbrook comments about the curveball, Walt Whitman, and American democracy.

## Old Whitman Loved Baseball

*by Edward J. Rielly*

Old Whitman loved baseball, covered it  
for Brooklyn newspapers, watched games  
every chance he got, talked about it  
endlessly to anyone who would listen  
when he grew too old and ill to get about.

He never got over, though, the new curveball  
and the deceit that went with it. Thought  
it un-American, not the stuff of noble youth  
or democracy. He must have seen what was coming.

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