

# Extension: Reading to Learn

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Your Turn

Read the following poem by American poet Walt Whitman using “Reading Poetry” (*Inquire* page 166) as a guide. Also use the annotating strategy (*Inquire* page 164) as you read the poem.

### A NOISELESS, PATIENT SPIDER

Walt Whitman

A NOISELESS, patient spider,  
I mark'd, where, on a little promontory, it stood, isolated;  
Mark'd how, to explore the vacant, vast surrounding,  
It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself;  
Ever unreeling them—ever tirelessly speeding them.

And you, O my Soul, where you stand,  
Surrounded, surrounded, in measureless oceans of space,  
Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing,—seeking the spheres, to  
connect them;  
Till the bridge you will need, be form'd—till the ductile anchor hold;  
Till the gossamer thread you fling, catch somewhere, O my Soul.

**Follow-up:** Discuss your reading experience with your classmates. How did the “Reading Poetry” plan and the annotating strategy enhance your understanding of the poem?