

Freedom's Feast **LABOR DAY**

On-line resources to get the most out of your **AMERICAN** holiday celebrations.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO COMMEMORATE LABOR DAY IN SONG AND POETRY

America the Beautiful (First stanza)

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good
With brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

I've Been Working on the Railroad

I've been working on the railroad
All the livelong day
I've been working on the railroad
Just to pass the time away
Can't you hear the whistle blowing
Rise up so early in the morn
Can't you hear the captain shouting
Dinah, blow your horn
2 times:
Dinah, won't you blow
Dinah, won't you blow
Dinah, won't you blow your horn
Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah
Someone's in the kitchen I know
Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah
Strumming on the old banjo, and singing
Fie, fi, fiddly i o; Fie, fi, fiddly i o
Fie, fi, fiddly i o—
Strumming on the old banjo.

(Leader: Ask a participant to read this poem out loud or choose another poem or readings about work.)

I Hear America Singing

WALT WHITMAN

I hear America singing,
the varied carols I hear,
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it
should be blithe and strong,
The carpenter singing his as he measures his
plank or beam,
The mason singing his as he makes ready for
work, or leaves off work,
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his
boat, the deckhand singing on the steamboat
deck,
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench,
the hatter singing as he stands,
The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's on his
way in the morning,
or at noon intermission or at sundown,
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the
young wife at work, or of
the girl sewing or washing,
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to
none else,
The day what belongs to the day—at night, the
party of young fellows, robust, friendly,
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious
songs.

