

Henry Petroski

TRY SHEET

"Out of the forever rocking cradle."
Drawing a line through that, then another line,
Walt Whitman tried again, another line
Throughout the forever opening line
To find the proper rocking rhythm, line
Through line for more than two full pages,
line
After unsatisfactory line, through stillborn
line,
Lines iterating, lines converging, line
Through easy line, line through difficult
line
To say, "Out of the cradle..." just right,
line
Excising, line excruciating, line
Unworthy, look for still another line
to leave the cradle rocking in the line
Below a better line, a freer line
With freer meter, freer feet, a line
To start all lines, to rock the mind, a line
To introduce the mockingbird, a line
To sail the sea a-singing, line!, line!, line!
A line to roll with the poem, a line
To roll on undulating seas, a line
To pull the poet into the poem, a line
To take him back to his opening line,
"Out of the cradle endlessly rocking."