

## Moby-Dick (American 1851)

vs.

## The Whale (British 1851)

### Chapter 1

bear it. But even this wears off in time.

What of it, if some old hunks of a sea-captain orders me to

get a broom and sweep down the decks? What does that indignity amount to, weighed, I mean, in the scales of the New Testament? Do you think the archangel Gabriel thinks anything the less of me, because I promptly and respectfully obey that old hunks in that particular instance? Who aint a slave?

Tell me that. Well, then, however the old sea-captains may order me about—however they may thump and punch me about, I have the satisfaction of knowing that it is all right; that everybody else is one way or other served in much the same way—either in a physical or metaphysical point of view, that is; and so the universal thump is passed round, and all hands should rub each other's shoulder-blades, and be content.

Again, I always go to sea as a sailor, because they make a point of paying me for my trouble, whereas they never pay passengers a single penny that I ever heard of. On the contrary, passengers themselves must pay. And there is all the difference in the world between paying and being paid. The



### Vol. 1 - Chapter 1

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Sequence from Versions of Moby-Dick | Created by: Test Administrator

Witness	Revision Step	Narration
Moby-Dick (American 1851) - Chapter 1	... ? Who <b>aint</b> a slave? ...	Ishmael's question, expressed in demotic English, also voices Melville's empathy for the working classes and America's black underclasses, evident throughout his writing career.
The Whale (British 1851) - Vol. 1 - Chapter 1	... New Testa- / ment? Who <b>is not</b> a slave? Tell me that....	The decision, probably by a British editor, to correct Ishmael's grammar,

Buttons: Delete, Cancel, Save