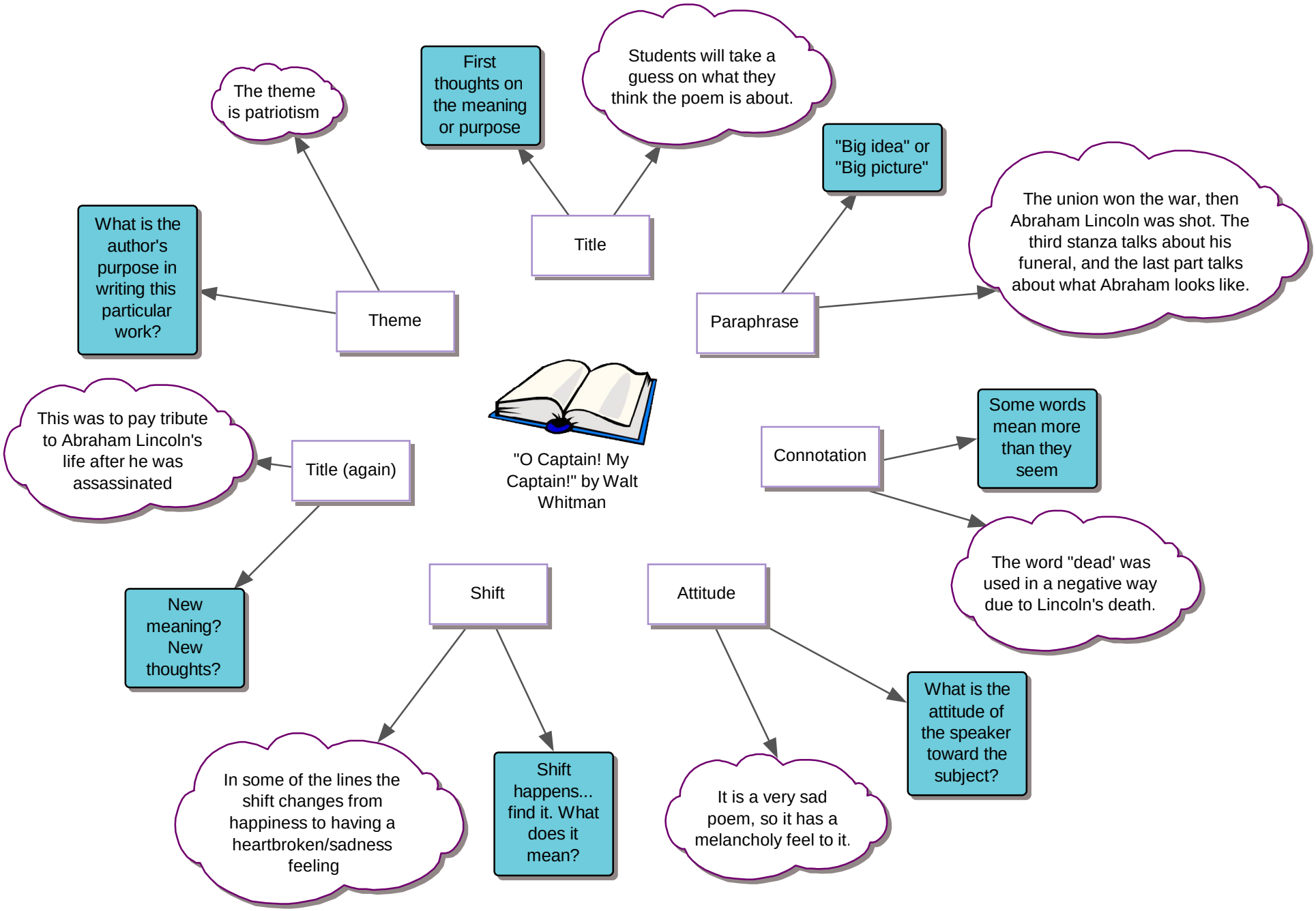
"O Captain! My Captain!" by Walt Whitman
Title
Students will take a guess on what they think the poem is about.
First thoughts on the meaning or purpose
Theme
The theme is patriotism
What is the author's purpose in writing this particular work?
Paraphrase
"Big idea" or "Big picture"
The union won the war, then Abraham Lincoln was shot. The third stanza talks about his funeral, and the last part talks about what Abraham looks like.
Connotation
Some words mean more than they seem
The word "dead' was used in a negative way due to Lincoln's death.
Attitude
What is the attitude of the speaker toward the subject?
It is a very sad poem, so it has a melancholy feel to it.
Shift
Shift happens... find it. What does it mean?
In some of the lines the shift changes from happiness to having a heartbroken/sadness feeling
Title (again)
This was to pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln's life after he was assassinated
New meaning? New thoughts?