

Poetry Unit

Song Analysis Assignment



You will analyze the lyrics of a song as poetry. In doing so, you will look for the use of the literary devices that we have studied this semester.

- ✓ Choose a song that means something to you. Be sure that it is a song that is appropriate for school (no vulgar or offensive language or over-emphasis on violent, illegal, or sexual themes). Choose a song that contains literary devices like the ones we have been discussing in class. To earn maximum marks, you will have to be able to identify at least **4** literary devices in your song.
- ✓ Provide a **copy of the lyrics**. You may download them from an Internet source, and/or type them, or write them out. Be sure to include the performer's/group's name. Number the lines of the song. You may number every 5th line (5, 10, 15...).
- ✓ Write a **three paragraph essay** that address the following aspects of the song you chose. The three paragraphs should focus on:
 1. **Choice**—Identify the song and performer/composer. Why do you like this song? Out of all the songs you listen to, what is it about *this* song that made you choose it for analysis? Do you admire the performer? Do you like other songs by the same performer?
 2. **Meaning/Theme**—What is the song's *deeper* meaning (not just the surface meaning)? What is the songwriter trying to tell the audience? What is the author's purpose for writing it? Does the song tell a story? Does it address certain emotions or issues? What's the theme?
 3. **Devices and Terms**—Which literary devices are used within the lyrics? Look for the devices that we've been talking about in class (similes, repetition, alliteration, etc.) On the copy of the song lyrics underline, circle, or somehow note each device that is used. In your essay, refer to each of the devices quoting it and naming the line number in which they appear. Your goal is to find 4 of these literary devices in the song you chose. Be sure to explain why the song writer included them. What effect do they have on the message, rhythm, and emotional effect of the song?
- ✓ Make a **title page** that includes your name, the song title and artist, and a picture that figuratively represents the song. **DO NOT** put a picture of the artist or album cover, those are literal: you must look for a picture that represents the theme, message, or images of the song.

Be sure to pay attention to organization, word choice, presentation, etc. Your paragraphs should have at least 6 sentences each. Take advantage of peer editing, teacher editing, and/or spell-check and grammar-check!

Name: _____



Song Analysis Rubric

Song Analyzed: _____

	10 points	8 points	6 points
Choice	Reason for choosing song is well-stated and thoroughly supported	Reason for choosing song is stated and adequately supported	Reason for choosing song can be inferred, but little or no support is given
Meaning	Song's meaning is fully analyzed with in-depth probing of the literal and figurative interpretations	Song's meaning is fully analyzed with some discussion of literal and/or figurative interpretations	Song's meaning is analyzed on a superficial level
Devices and Terms	Four or more literary devices/terms are correctly identified, quoted, referenced by line number and thoroughly explained	At least 3 literary devices/terms are correctly identified, quoted, referenced by line number and adequately explained	At least two literary devices/terms are correctly identified, quoted, referenced by line number and explained
	5 points	3 points	1 point
Conventions	Few distracting errors	Some distracting errors	Many distracting errors
Presentation	Title page included, with picture that represents the song; lyrics legible with devices indicated; neat-looking paper	Missing a title page OR title page includes picture of artist/album; either lyrics OR text need improvement in legibility or neatness	Missing a title page; both lyrics AND text need improvement in legibility or neatness

Points Earned: _____/40 = _____%