Pop Poetry

Homework

Year 7

*Understanding how poetry is relevant in our lives today*

6 week project



This term, you will be working on various popular song lyrics, and analysing how poetic techniques that you have been learning in class time are used in today’s music.

You will be aiming to develop the following skills:

* Identifying poetic techniques
* Understanding the effect of those techniques on the reader (or listener!)
* Practising your analytic skills
* Writing analysis
* Using rhythm and rhyme
* Using poetic techniques in your own lyrics

**KEY WORDS**

Imperatives – words that give a command

Personification – giving human features to an inanimate object

Direct address – using ‘you’ to talk directly to the reader

1. Rhythm – a strong, regular repeated pattern of movement or sound

Rhyme – words that end with the same sound

Syllables – how many emphasised beats in a word

**Week 1: How are imperatives used to show power in ‘Salute’ by Little Mix?**

1. Highlight and label as many imperatives as you can in the verse below.

*Ladies all across the world
Listen up, we're looking for recruits
If you're with me, let me see your hands
Stand up and salute
Get your killer heels, sneakers, pumps or lace up your boots
Representing all the women.
Salute, salute!*
2. On the lines below, give three reasons why Little Mix would use imperatives in this verse.
3. Why might a woman feel powerful after hearing this lyrics? Think about unity, and the way this suggests they are going to battle.
4. In the space below, have a go at writing the next verse to the song. What imperatives will you use?
* Completed

**Week 2: Imagery and Metaphors**

In the lyrics below, Nat King Cole sings about the end of a relationship using personification and metaphors.

1. Label **three** paces that he uses personification, and **three** places he uses a metaphor.

***"Stardust" – Nat King Cole***

*And now the purple dusk of twilight time
Steals across the meadows of my heart
High up in the sky the little stars climb
Always reminding me that we're apart

You wander down the lane and far away
Leaving me a song that will not die
Love is now the stardust of yesterday
The music of the years gone by

Sometimes I wonder why I spend
The lonely night dreaming of a song
The melody haunts my reverie
And I am once again with you
When our love was new
And each kiss an inspiration
But that was long ago
Now my consolation
Is in the stardust of a song*

1. In the space below, write a paragraph explaining the effect of the personification and/or the metaphors. Make sure you use evidence from the song, and think about the connotations of individual words.
* Completed

**Week 3: Direct address- getting a message across**

***“Imagine” – John Lennon***

*Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too*

*Imagine all the people
Living life in peace*

*You, you may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you will join us
And the world will be as one*

1. In this famous song, John Lennon talks about his wish for our world. What do you think his wish is?
2. John Lennon talks directly to the listener, by saying ‘you’. How does this make the listener feel?

Main Task:

Choose a world issue that you feel strongly about (poverty, recycling, animals close to extinction) and write a 10-line verse for the second half of this song. Begin with ‘*Imagine*’.

**Challenge yourself:** can you find another popular song that uses direct address to talk about a serious world issue?

* Completed

**Week 4: find your own song**

Task 1:

Look up the lyrics to one or more of your favourite songs. Find three lyrics that you think use some good metaphors, similes or personification. (Some people to look at might be Katy Perry, The Beatles, Adele).

**Put your lines into the table below, answering in detail the different sections.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lyric  | Metaphor, personification or simile? | Why is this line effective? | Pick one word from the lyric and think about the different connotations of that word.  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Task 2: now choose your **favourite** lyric from above, or any we have looked at so far. Draw in the box below, the image that it creates in your mind. Use colour, and be as imaginative as possible!

* Completed

**Week 5: Rap- using rhythm and rhyme**

The song below is a song written about war on the streets on America between rappers. What do you notice about the rhythm and rhyme?

Task 1: highlight all the words that rhyme, and think about where they come in the verse. Is there a pattern?

Task 2: where is there repetition? Highlight and think about **why**.

***Toy Soldiers – Eminem***

*Step by step, heart to heart, left right left
We all fall down
Step by step, heart to heart, left right left
We all fall down like toy soldiers
Bit by bit, torn apart
We never win but the battle wages on for toy soldiers*

*I'm supposed to be the soldier, who never blows his composure
Even though I hold the weight of the whole world on my shoulders
I ain't never suppose to show it, my crew ain't suppose to know it
Even if it means going toe to toe with the Benzino, it don't matter
I never drag 'em in battles that I can handle less I absolutely have to
I'm suppose to set an example, I need to be the leader
My crew looks for me to guide 'em
If some stuff ever just pop off I'm suppose to be beside 'em*

**Eminem discusses struggles that he encounters, and uses the extended metaphor of war.**

MAIN TASK: write a rap about something you struggle with, and think about the following:

* Rhythm
* Rhyme
* Syllables per line (see what I did there?!)
* Completed

**Week 6: writing your own song**

Choose one of the following titles to use as inspiration to write your own song:

* *Whistling on the wind*
* *Red*
* *Memories of tomorrow*

**Use all of the techniques we have looked at over the last few weeks, and include them in your lyrics.**

* **Personification**
* **Simile**
* **Metaphor**
* **Alliteration**
* **Rhyme**
* **Rhythm**
* **Imagery**
* **Syllables**

Final task: revise and go over. Can you:

1. Improve any words
2. Add in capitals where necessary
3. Improve the imagery you have used
4. Tick off the techniques you have used on a check list
* Completed

Extension / development ideas

* Write an analysis paragraph, zooming in on particular words, on a song of your choice.
* Find a persuasive song, and write about how it could be considered persuasive- what techniques does it use etc?
* Choose some song lyrics, and edit them so it sounds like a poem.
* Compare two sets of song lyrics, thinking about how they have both used language.