



What's in a Song?

Music Analysis Guide

The Lyrics (Language)

| Questions | Class Responses |
|---|-----------------|
| What did you like about the song's words? What were your favourite parts? Why? (Critical thinking) | |
| Are the song's words like the words to any other song that you know? How are they similar or different? (Connections) | |
| Is there anything in the song that reminds you of something in your own life? (Personalization) | |
| Do you find any of the words or sentences interesting? Confusing? Unusual? (Style) | |
| Did the songwriter include images that you find funny? Scary? Old-fashioned? Embarrassing? (Evaluation) | |
| What senses does the songwriter use in this song? Sight? Smell? Hearing? Taste? Touch? (Style) | |
| Why do you think the songwriter wrote this song? (Inference) | |

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| What is this song about? (Theme) | |
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The Elements (Music)

| Elements of Music | Comments for Song |
|---|-------------------|
| <p>Rhythm: Rhythm is the repeated movement of sounds through time. In songs, the words usually match the rhythm. Everything we sing or say has a rhythm. For example, try singing or saying a lullaby, nursery rhyme, skipping song or rap. Beat, accent and tempo are all part of rhythm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beat is the regular pulse (the ticking of a clock, the sound of a car's windshield wipers).• Accent is where the strongest emphasis is placed as in <i>one</i>, two, three, <i>one</i>, two, three.• Tempo is the speed: how fast or slow the music is. <p><i>Can you find the beat through clapping? Can you find the accent? What happens when you change the tempo?</i></p> | |
| <p>Melody: Melody is the tune. The tune is made up of musical notes or pitches that make up a pattern. When you add words to a melody, it becomes a song.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes can be high, low or in-between. Their height is called the pitch. <p><i>What words would you use to describe the melody or tune of this music?</i></p> | |
| <p>Timbre: Timbre is what makes one instrument or voice sound different from another.</p> <p><i>What instruments do you recognize in this music? Why do you think these instruments were selected?</i></p> | |
| <p>Dynamics: Dynamics refers to how loud or quiet the music is. It can help to tell you about the mood of the music.</p> <p><i>Important terms: pianissimo (very quiet)</i></p> | |

piano (quiet), *mezzo piano* (medium quiet),
mezzo forte (medium loud), *forte* (loud),
fortissimo (very loud).

How would you describe this music?

Harmony:

Harmony is when you play two or more notes
at the same time.

*Is harmony used in this music? Why do you
think the composer chose to use harmony in
this music?*

Genres/Styles:

Genre is the kind of music (jazz, rock, rap,
classical, marches, lullabies, opera, pop, folk,
etc.)

*How is each kind of music different? Can you
give an example for each kind of music? What
type does this music fit into?*