

Powerful Words - Understanding Lyrics

Name:

Date:



What significance can song lyrics have and how can we understand them?

Song lyrics are forms of expression that go beyond mere entertainment. They reflect personal experiences, societal issues, emotional conflicts, or everyday situations. Artists use lyrics to share their thoughts, feelings, and perspectives. Themes such as love, loss, identity, freedom, protest, or solidarity often take center stage. Those who delve deeper into lyrics can see how multifaceted music can be and how it serves as a mirror of society.

Brainstorming in Pairs:

- What songs come to mind that have a meaning important to you or that you find special?
- Do you always listen to the lyrics? Or do you listen to songs just for their sound?
- What content can song lyrics have?

Write your answer here.

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Assignment: Watch the video a second time and read the lyrics simultaneously. Then, work in pairs. Discuss which central phrase or theme the song lyrics address and how you can best summarize it.

Taylor Swift - Love Story Lyrics

We were both young when I first saw you
I close my eyes and the flashback starts
I'm standing there on a balcony in summer air
See the lights, see the party, the ballgowns
See you make your way through the crowd
And say hello
That you were Romeo, you were throwing pebbles
Little did I know
And my daddy said, "Stay away from Juliet"
And I was crying on the staircase
And I said
"Begging you, 'Please don't go'"
Romeo, take me somewhere we can be alone
I'll be waiting, all that's left to do is run
You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess
So I sneak out to the garden to see you
It's a love story, baby, just say, "Yes"
We keep quiet 'cause we're dead if they knew
So close your eyes
'Cause you were Romeo, I was a scarlet letter
Escape this town for a little while
And my daddy said, "Stay away from Juliet"
But you were everything to me
And I said
"I was begging you, 'Please don't go'"
Romeo, take me somewhere we can be alone
I'll be waiting, all that's left to do is run
You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess
Romeo, save me, they're trying to tell me how to feel
It's a love story, baby, just say, "Yes"
This love is difficult, but it's real
Don't be afraid, we'll make it out of this mess
I got tired of waiting
It's a love story, baby, just say, "Yes"
Wondering if you were ever coming around
My faith in you was fading
And I said
"When I met you on the outskirts of town
Romeo, save me, I've been feeling so alone
I keep waiting for you, but you never come
He knelt to the ground and pulled out a ring
Is this in my head? I don't know what to think
And said
"Marry me, Juliet
You'll never have to be alone
I love you and that's all I really know
Oh, oh, oh, oh
It's a love story, baby, just say, 'Yes!'"
'Cause we were both young when I first saw you

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Choose the correct answer

What obstacle do Romeo and Juliet face in their love story?

- Juliet's father tells Romeo to stay away from her. Romeo's family disapproves of Juliet.
- Romeo is engaged to another woman. Juliet's father wants her to marry someone else.

How does Romeo ultimately propose to Juliet?

- He asks her in front of her family. He sends her a letter. He kneels and pulls out a ring.
- He plans a surprise party.

Why does Juliet feel her faith in Romeo is fading?

- Because Romeo has been seen with another woman.
- Because Romeo has not visited her in a long time.
- Because she hasn't heard from him and wonders if he will come.
- Because Juliet's father keeps them apart.

 **Assignment:** Try to develop an interpretation using the provided questions.

The song 'Love Story' talks about obstacles in love. What does this tell us about the challenges people face when they love someone deeply?

The lyrics mention 'Marry me, Juliet'. What does this moment represent in terms of commitment and overcoming obstacles?

Juliet sneaks out to the garden to see Romeo. What does this act symbolize about her feelings and the risks she's willing to take?
