

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 ball gowns
See you make your way through the crowd
And say hello
Little did I know
That you were Romeo, you were throwing pebbles
And my daddy said, "Stay away from Juliet"
And I was crying on the staircase
Begging you, "Please don't go"
And I said
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
It's a love story, baby, just say, "Yes"
So I sneak out to the garden to see you
We keep quiet 'cause we're dead if they knew
So close your eyes
Escape this town for a little while
'Cause you were Romeo, I was a scarlet letter
And my daddy said, "Stay away from Juliet"
But you were everything to me
I was begging you, "Please don't go"
And I said
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
It's a love story, baby, just say, "Yes"
Romeo, save me, they're trying to tell me how to feel
This love is difficult, but it's real
Don't be afraid, we'll make it out of this mess
It's a love story, baby, just say, "Yes"
I got tired of waiting
Wondering if you were ever coming around

My faith in you was fading
When I met you on the outskirts of town
And I said
Romeo, save me, I've been feeling so alone
I keep waiting for you, but you never come
Is this in my head? I don't know what to think
He knelt to the ground and pulled out a ring
And said
"Marry me, Juliet
You'll never have to be alone
I love you and that's all I really know
I talked to your dad, go pick out a white dress
It's a love story, baby, just say, 'Yes'"
Oh, oh, oh
Oh, oh, oh, oh
'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 song shows that love can be challenging when others don't approve or try to keep people apart. In the story, Juliet's father tells Romeo to stay away, showing that sometimes we have to fight for love despite what others say.

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

This moment represents true commitment and the triumph of love over difficulties. By asking Juliet to marry him, Romeo shows that he's ready to overcome any obstacle and be with her forever, showing the power of true love.

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?

Juliet sneaking out symbolizes her bravery and deep love for Romeo. It shows that she's willing to take risks and defy her father's wishes to be with the person she loves. This act of sneaking out reflects her determination and the lengths she'll go for love.

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NOTE FOR TEACHER!!

Analysis of "Love Story" by Taylor Swift

Challenges in Deep Love

The song "Love Story" by Taylor Swift exemplifies the obstacles people face when they love someone deeply. Inspired by Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," it narrates a romance resisted by family and societal expectations. This reflects a universal experience where lovers often encounter barriers such as disapproval from family, societal norms, or personal insecurities. The song suggests that true love demands perseverance and courage to overcome these obstacles, as seen in the lyrics where Juliet pleads for Romeo to take her away from societal constraints.

Commitment and Overcoming Obstacles

The moment when Romeo proposes with the line "Marry me, Juliet" represents a significant turning point in the song. It signifies a commitment to overcoming external barriers and societal pressures. This proposal is a metaphorical triumph over adversity, illustrating a resolution to be together despite the challenges faced. Swift alters the tragic ending of Shakespeare's play, opting for a happy outcome where love conquers all, thus highlighting the power of commitment in overcoming obstacles.

Symbolism of Juliet's Actions

Juliet sneaking out to the garden symbolizes her deep affection for Romeo and her willingness to defy societal norms and familial expectations. This act of rebellion signifies the risks she is prepared to take for the sake of love. It demonstrates her courage and determination to pursue a relationship that she believes in, despite the potential consequences. Swift uses this imagery to portray Juliet's inner struggle and the depth of her feelings, emphasizing the lengths one might go to for love.

Taylor Swift's Inspiration and Song Meaning

Taylor Swift wrote "Love Story" inspired by a personal experience with a boy who faced disapproval from her family and friends, paralleling the forbidden love theme in "Romeo and Juliet." Swift's optimistic outlook on love shines through the song, as she crafts a narrative where love triumphs over adversity. In interviews, Swift has mentioned her desire to infuse the song with a fairy tale-like happy ending, contrary to the tragic conclusion of the original play. This reflects her belief in love's ability to overcome hardships and societal constraints. The song resonates with listeners who have faced similar struggles, making it timeless and relatable.

In summary, "Love Story" is not just a romantic ballad but a testament to the challenges and triumphs of deep love, underscoring the themes of commitment, rebellion, and hope. Swift's adaptation of the classic tale into a modern context serves as a powerful reminder of love's enduring strength.