

Music/Poetry Workshop (Spring 2023)

Session 1: Poetry/Music

(5 min introduction and greeting)

- What is your name and what is your definition of poetry/music?

Intro Activity: Word or phrase game

- Two Teams
- 5 Mins to come up with as many songs as possible that have the given word in the title or lyrics. No phone or computer searches!
- Common songs get disqualified. Whoever has the most original points wins the round!

Relationship between poetry and music: How are they similar or different?

Similar:

- Both are technically poetry
 - They both have a similar written format
 - Convey meaning and emotion in more of a lyrical way
- Typically have bigger, hidden meanings
 - There is a literal interpretation, but also an underlying message or allusion
 - Can be enjoyed and appreciated at the surface level as well as at a deeper level
 - Examples: “You are my Sunshine” by Johnny Cash and “Every Breath You Take” by the Police
- Written art relying on sound and silence
 - Both are recorded in written form, but have the ability for an extra element with a performance/reading
 - Both typically have a set cadence or rhythm

- Built to be performed with increases/decreases in volume and tone (crescendo and decrescendo, emphasis, intonation)
- Example: "A Musical" from Something Rotten
- They both use rhythm to create emotion
 - They have stanzas and beats by which they should be read or listened to
 - Repetition in combination with new/changing/different points of view
- Timeless
 - Art is emotional expression, emotions remain the same across all generations in all cultures
 - Example: Queen's music ie. Bohemian Rhapsody

Different:

- Music is more accessible
 - People can understand and appreciate music more easily than they can poetry, which is often too vague or challenging to read for most people to enjoy.
 - Music can also be used to learn new languages. Even without understanding the words themselves, music can elicit emotions in the listener that can be interpreted through language barriers.
 - Example: Sarah's dad listening to the Beatles to learn English
- Music is often performed, poetry is not the same
 - Music is a publicized art that is recognized across media and performed at enormous venues.
 - Poetry is not recognized as much across media, but it can still be performed at poetry slams and other such smaller events
- Music has added difficulty because of the extra steps needed such as:
 - Musical accompaniment
 - Sometimes physical interpretations
- Stereotyping is contrary

- Poetry is easier to be accepted as “good” because people don’t understand it, but stereotyping of poets’ and musicians’ talent is different
- Example: Taylor Swift vs. Emily Dickens

Activity: Blackout poetry with song lyrics

- Print 2-3 songs ahead of time
 - **Bohemian Rhapsody**
 - **American Pie**
 - **Achilles’ Heel**
- Use the lyrics to write the blackout poetry activity.

After about 10 minutes of making poetry, we will stop and return as a group once more to talk about how it went and share our work!

DISCLAIMER: The purpose of this exercise is to communicate with other workshop attendees, get to know them a bit, and brainstorm material for you to write about. Please do not intentionally make anyone uncomfortable, and think before you speak about situations that are excessively or unnecessarily gory, violent, or that could trigger other people and make them feel unsafe. If you would like to talk about a topic and are unsure if it is okay, ask the group politely. If at any point you feel uncomfortable in the group, or if anyone intentionally violates these rules, please let the workshop facilitators know so that we can handle the situation.

Please fill out a survey to help us improve the workshop, and have a great weekend!
