

## Lyric Song Analysis Project



Literary Devices are techniques used in writing that produce a specific effect. Most literary devices help the audience focus on particular words or phrases in order for the writer to get his or her point across. They can be found in all types of texts, not just stories or poems.

Most people love to listen to music, and to help you understand how common literary devices are, and how they work, this project will focus on literary devices in songs.

**Directions:** You will select a (**classroom appropriate**) song of your choice to present to the class. This song must have a **minimum of 10 literary devices**. (Although you may duplicate the TYPE of literary device, you **MAY NOT** duplicate phrases or lines in your song for your examples and as part of your analysis.) You will analyze the poem in class with a partner and create a poster to visually represent the literary devices found in your song. Then you will write a literary analysis **explaining the purpose of using that particular literary device in the song**. You will read 5 of your examples to the class and explain their purpose.

### Steps to the Project:

1. Pick a classroom appropriate song with **at least 10** literary devices
2. Copy and paste your song lyrics onto a Word Document. Make sure your song title and song artist is at the top of the page.
3. **You MUST get your song approved before continuing on your project.**
4. Analyze your poem. Find at least 10 literary devices and explain their purpose and effect.
5. Create a visual to present to the class.
6. Write a Literary Analysis explaining the purpose and effect of the 10 devices you found in your poem.
7. Make sure to include a Works Cited Citation on the back of you project. Correctly cite your source using MLA format.
8. Present your presentation, Speak loudly and clearly as you explain each literary device. This is a presentation grade.

### Rubric:

	Points Possible	Points Earned
<b>Song Lyrics - copy brought to school on 1/14</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>Written Literary Analysis - Accuracy and Explanation of Literary Devices</b> Example provided is the correct literary device and an in-depth analysis of the literary device and its purpose is given. 5 points each for each example.	<b>50</b>	
<b>Visual Representation - Poster</b> Song Presentation is visually appealing and engaging to the audience. Text is easy to read and examples are large enough to read. The theme of the song is can easily be seen.	<b>15</b>	
<b>Presentation</b> All members of the group <b>MUST</b> explain a portion of the song. Graded on presentation skills: voice projection, eye contact, posture, and body language.	<b>15</b>	
<b>Works Cited Citation – correctly formatted in MLA</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>100</b>	

### Please Note\*

- Each inappropriate word or phrase seen or heard will reduce your overall grade by 10 points. Even if it is metaphorically inappropriate.

# Lyric Song Literary Analysis Example

Bob and Jones 1

Joe Bob and Holly Jones

Tillman

English 9

16 Januarys 2012

## Fireworks Let Your Inner Beauty Shine

In Katy Perry's song "Fireworks," she sings about revealing your true self to the world instead of keeping it a secret. It tells us not to be afraid of what we have and who we really are but to be proud of it. The artist is trying to say that we should not be afraid to express who you really are in the inside, and not letting your flaws stop you from having a great life. "Fireworks" is about pride in one's self and letting your "true colors" show without worrying about what other people think of you. In other words, the song is basically telling us to be who we are and not what others want us to be. It is also telling us to embrace our flaws because they are what makes each one of us unique. We should also be proud of ourselves and stay motivated enough to reach our goals without letting anybody or anything stop us.

This theme is revealed through the following literary devices:

- This simile "Do you ever feel/ Feel so paper-thin/Like a house of cards/ One blow from caving in" emphasizes and describes the person's frailness and helplessness to focus on the fact he/she is unstable.
- The lyrics "Do you ever feel/ Like a plastic bag/ Drifting through the wind/ Wanting to start again" create a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness because the person cannot control his/her life and is at the mercy of others.
- "Do you know that there's/ Still a chance for you/ Cause there's a spark in you" is a superb example of a metaphor. A spark is being compared to the person's potential. A spark turns into a flame, just like the person needs to turn their potential into great actions.

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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