

NTI MUSIC BASED PROJECT

PROJECT: Finding poetic devices in popular music.

To successfully complete this project you will identify, in popular music lyrics of your choosing, **TEN (10)** poetic devices as listed below. For each of the devices that you choose, you should: 1) Identify the SONG & ARTIST 2) State the lyrics that demonstrate the poetic device and 3) list the poetic device and tell why it fulfills it. (See examples below).

You may use many examples from the same song, or you could use ten unique songs. You may use several examples of the same poetic device, or you may use unique examples each time. However, in order to successfully complete the project for full credit, you must adequately show ten lyrics and ten examples of how they are poetic devices! Good luck, and have fun exploring the lyrics of your favorite songs!

EXAMPLE #1 – “Mean” by Taylor Swift : “You, with your words like knives and swords and weapons that you use against me.” And “You, with your words like nails on a chalkboard calling me out when I’m wounded.” : These lyrics are an example of *simile* because they are showing the resemblance of two things using ‘like’ or ‘as’ to connect them. In this case, the words are compared to knives and other weapons used against me and the voice is being compared to the sound of nails on a chalk board.

EXAMPLE #2 – “One Thing” by One Direction : “Shot me out of the sky, You’re my kryptonite” : This is an example of *metaphor* because the artist is saying that the girl he likes “makes him weak,” and does so by comparing her to Kryptonite, which of course was what makes Superman weak! (Yay! for getting a poetic device and a cultural reference two-for-one!)

EXAMPLE #3 – “Walkin’ On Sunshine” by Katrina and the Waves : “I’m walking on sunshine, and don’t it feel good! : This is an example of *mood* as the lyrics clearly show that the artist is happy and excited because she realizes that her true love loves her in return and she is excited to see him again. This is further accentuated by the fast tempo and upbeat, happy feeling provided by the music as well. (Guess what! #3 could also be considered *hyperbole* or *figurative* language!)

Use the following poetic devices and their definitions to help you with this fun project!

allegory - a short moral story

alliteration - use of the same consonant at the beginning of each word

enjambment - continuation from one line of verse into the next line

imagery - the ability to form mental pictures of things or events

metaphor - a figure of speech that suggests a non-literal similarity

rhyme - correspondence in the final sounds of two or more lines

mood - a characteristic state of feeling

foreshadowing - the act of providing vague advance indications

free verse - poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular meter

hyperbole - extravagant exaggeration

irony - incongruity between what might be expected and what occurs

literal - limited to the explicit meaning of a word or text

figurative - not literal

metonymy - substituting the name of a feature for the name of the thing

narrator - someone who tells a story

onomatopoeia - using words that imitate the sound they denote

satire - witty language used to convey insults or scorn

simile - a figure of speech expressing a resemblance between things, using “like” or “as”

synecdoche - using part of something to refer to the whole thing

symbol - something visible that represents something invisible

theme - the subject matter of a conversation or discussion

allusion - passing reference or indirect mention

personification - attributing human characteristics to abstract ideas

repetition - the act of doing or performing again

oxymoron - conjoined contradictory terms

connotation - an idea that is implied or suggested

pun - a humorous play on words

paradox - a statement that contradicts itself

*Note: This project would be appropriate to be completed multiple times. Complete on different NTI days, or in consecutive years. YOUR RESPONSES; HOWEVER, MUST BE DIFFERENT. Your responses will be kept on file until you graduate for comparison.