

The Poetry of Music
A Web Lesson Plan By [Alex Culling](#)

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Subject: English, can be adapted for musical composition (see [assignment-musical composition](#)).

Grade Level: 8-12, can be adapted for elementary (see [assignment-elementary](#)).

Time: Approximately one class. Exact time will depend on the length of class discussions and the number of examples, as well as any discussion to use class time to work on the assignment.

Rationale and Instructional Objectives

- Students will be able to recognize and appreciate a popular source of poetry in everyday life.
- Students will be able to analyze and critic a form of poetry, and discuss what personal meaning the poem has for them.
- **Meet the following objectives of the Alberta *Information and Communication Technology Mandate***
 - **C1.3.4** *Access and retrieve information through the electronic network*
 - **F3.3.1** *Use time and resources on the network wisely.*
 - **F3.3.4** *Cite sources when using copyright/public domain material*
 - **P4.3.1** *Integrate information from a database into a text document.*

Materials

- An overhead or print copies of lyrics to a song that most students will be unfamiliar with, but can easily recognize as a poem. An audio recording of the song should be easy to obtain. *See example at end of plan.*
- An audio recording of the song chosen above.
- One or more overhead/print copy examples that most students will be familiar with.
- Computers with internet access.
- Suggested websites for lyric search:
 - **Sing365** <http://search.sing365.com/search.php>
 - **Copyright/Public Domain Info.** <http://pdinfo.com/>
 - **Lycos music search** <http://music.lycos.com/lyrics/>
 - **LetsSingIt** <http://www.letssingit.com/>
 - **The World Journal** <http://www.theworldjournal.com/special/lyrics/>

- **LyricsLand** <http://www.lyricsland.org/>
- **LyricTracker** <http://www.lyrictracker.com/>

Procedure

1. Display the overhead/hand out print copies of the unfamiliar example for the class.
2. Analyze the poetics of the lyrics as a class. Discuss the rhythm, meter, language, feel, and any poetic aspects.
3. Inform the students that the poem is actually a song, and play the audio recording for them.
4. Discuss if/how music changes the feel, rhythm, etc. of the poem.
5. Use at least one example of a song known to most students; again discuss the poetics of the song lyrics.

Assignment

Have the students search the internet for the lyrics to their favorite song. They are to write a short report on the poetics of the song, using quotes from the lyrics to support and clarify their analysis of the song. A good introduction would be to state the song chosen, the artist, writer, composer, and why they chose this song, beyond “*because it’s my favorite.*” It would be good to site their source for the lyrics.

Suggested Marking:

Introduction /5

Recognizes artist, writer, composer /3

Explains why they chose this song /2

Body /15

Adequate discussion of the poetics of the song /10

Quotes to support analysis /5

Alternate Assignment for Elementary

Choose a song for the class. Assign each student or a small group a portion of the lyrics to draw a picture which represents the lyrics. If this is done with computer software, the drawings can be combined in a power point presentation and timed to an audio recording of the song to produce a pseudo music video for the class.

Alternate Assignment-Musical Composition

Select or allow the students to select a well-known short poem(*length approximating To F-S S. O-D by Edgar Allen Poe*) to which they will write an instrumental accompaniment. The piece should adequately reflect the feel, rhythm, and emotion of the poem.

Unfamiliar Example on next page: [Fly Me To The Moon by Bart Howard](#)

Fly Me To The Moon

Written and composed by Bart Howard

Performed by (*too many artist to mention*)

Fly me to the moon
Let me play among the stars
Let me see what spring is like
On Jupiter and Mars

In other words, hold my hand
In other words, darling kiss me

Fill my heart with song and
Let me sing forever more
You are all I long for
All I worship and adore

In other words, please be true
In other words, I love you

