

Responding to Key Scenes

Enriching the Humanities Through Opera

**OPERA
AMERICA**

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How can poetry and music enhance a key scene in a story?

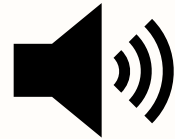
Today's Objectives:

- Identify characters' emotions and responses in a key scene.
- Identify poetic devices found in presented examples.
- Create a response poem, at least four lines in length, using two poetic devices to represent a character's response to a key scene in the work.
- Demonstrate understanding of chosen key scene through response poems.

Listening Activity



As you listen to the music, write down the emotions you hear being expressed.



Act II

03:10 – 05:39

Listening Activity

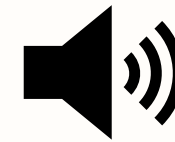
Emotions observed:



***Roméo et Juliette* Synopsis**

The opera *Roméo et Juliette*, based on Shakespeare's play, tells the story of Romeo and Juliet, two teenagers from the feuding Montague and Capulet families. They meet at a ball, fall in love, and secretly marry, knowing their families will never approve. After Romeo kills Juliet's cousin in a street fight, he is forced into hiding to escape the Capulets' vengeance. Meanwhile, Juliet fakes her own death to avoid an arranged marriage, but the plan goes tragically wrong. Within a few days, the drama culminates in the tragic deaths of both Romeo and Juliet.

Listening Activity



Act II: Scene 1, No. 7: “Ah! lève-toi, soleil! (Ah, arise, o sun!)” (Excerpt)

After their meeting in Act I, Romeo stands in Juliet’s garden beneath her balcony, proclaiming his love for her.

ROMÉO

L’amour, l’amour!

Oui, son ardeur a troublé tout mon être!

(La fenêtre de Juliette s’éclaire.)

Mais quelle soudaine clarté

Resplendit à cette fenêtre?

C’est là que dans la nuit rayonne sa beauté!

Ah! lève-toi, soleil! fais pâlir les étoiles

Qui, dans l’azur sans voiles,

Brillent au firmament,

Ah! lève-toi! parais! parais!

Astre pur et charmant!

Elle rêve! elle dénoue

Une boucle de cheveux

Qui vient caresser sa joue.

Amour! Amour! porte-lui mes vœux!

ROMEO

Love! Love!

Ay, its intensity has disturbed my very being!

(A light comes on in Juliet’s window.)

But what sudden light

through yonder window breaks?

’Tis there that by night her beauty shines!

Ah, arise, o sun! Turn pale the stars

that, unveiled in the azure,

do sparkle in the firmament.

Ah, arise! Ah, arise! Appear! Appear,

thou pure and enchanting star!

She is dreaming, she loosens

a lock of hair

which falls to caress her cheek.

Love! Love, carry my vows to her!

Listening Activity



How does viewing the text change your understanding?

Does knowing the character(s) singing change your understanding?

How does the text and music add to your understanding of the scene?

Poetic Devices

- Rhyme
- Symbolism
- Repetition
- Meter
- Alliteration
- Metaphor
- Simile
- Imagery
- Personification
- Onomatopoeia

Poetic Devices Examples

"A Poison Tree" by William Blake

I was angry with my friend:
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe:
I told it not, my wrath did grow.
And I watered it in fears,
Night and morning with my tears;
And I sunned it with smiles,
And with soft deceitful wiles.
And it grew both day and night,
Till it bore an apple bright.
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine,
And into my garden stole
When the night had veiled the pole;
In the morning glad I see
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

What poetic devices can you find in this example?

Poetic Devices Examples

“**Almots**” by Bianca Phipps (Excerpt)

I have never felt so at ease as the day you called me precocious.
I have never feared big words, only those that refused to use them,
And the syllables rolled off your tongue like honey;
I was hooked.

Language became our vein of communication,
And I know that everybody uses language to communicate but ours was different,
As if in between the letters and the syllables there is a secret message only we can decipher.

My days were filled with sound of your voice,
And your nights were littered with the loops of my handwriting.
We exchanged our favorite words, mine being ‘illuminated’ and yours being ‘cattywampus’;
And our least favorites, mine ‘moist’ and yours ‘almost.’
And when I asked you why, you said it was because almost held failed potential,
That it represented our ability to be just not good enough,
That we had come to the brink of something beautiful but fell short so many times,
we crafted a word for it.

What poetic devices can you find in this example?

“Ah! lève-toi, soleil!” (Excerpt)

After their meeting in Act I, Romeo stands in Juliet’s garden beneath her balcony, proclaiming his love for her.

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Response Poem Guidelines

Choose 1 character in the key scene, identify their emotions, and write a poem from their point of view in response to the scene's action.

Response poem should include:

- Minimum of 4 lines
- At least 2 poetic devices

Response Poem Example



Is this what everyone speaks of as love?
A love so tempting from one light kiss
My brain says no, my heart says yes
Desire climbing the walls to reach my heart
Creating a battle between desire and family
This must be love.

Present 

Reflection

Share thoughts on the response poem process.

How does poetry and music enhance the scene?

What did you learn from viewing and presenting our response poems?

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