

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?

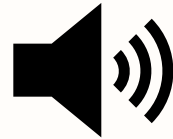
Today's Objectives:

- 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.



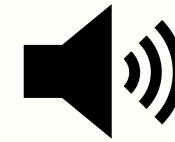
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Listening Activity

Emotions observed:



Listening Activity



Act I, Scene 21: “What Makes a Man a Man” (Excerpt)

When they face off at the weigh-in, Paret taunts Emile about his sexual orientation. Emile is furious, and they nearly come to blows right there. Howie pulls him away, but when Emile begins to explain why the insult hit so close to home, Howie refuses to have the conversation, telling him that the boxing world is not a place where he can be open about his sexuality. Alone, Emile wrestles with his sense of manhood and identity.

YOUNG EMILE

What makes a man a man
What makes a man the man he is?
Is it the flesh and bone?
Inside? Outside?
Is it the skin he wears?
The color of his voice?
The walk he walks?
The talk he talks?
Inside? Outside?
What makes this man a man?
Is it the life he’s lived?
The yesterdays?
Or what he dreams for the tomorrow–days?

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?

***Champion* Synopsis**

The powerful and deeply personal story of Emile Griffith, a six-time world champion boxer, whose life was shaped by triumph and tragedy. Griffith rose from a hat factory worker to a boxing legend, culminating in his infamous 1962 fight with Benny "Kid" Paret, which resulted in Paret's death. Haunted by this event and grappling with his identity, Griffith seeks forgiveness and reconciliation in his later years.

Poetic Devices

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

Poetic Devices Examples

“A Man Said to the Universe” by Stephen Crane

A man said to the universe:

“Sir, I exist!”

“However,” replied the universe,

“The fact has not created in me

A sense of obligation.”

*What poetic
devices can you
find in this
example?*

Poetic Devices Examples

“Invictus” by William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,
 Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
 For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
 I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
 My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
 Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
 Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
 How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
 I am the captain of my soul.

*What poetic
devices can you
find in this
example?*

“What Makes a Man a Man?” (Excerpt)

YOUNG EMILE

What makes a man a man
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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

You ARE a man, a man to me.
My boy turned man, strong and free.
I am so proud of who you are.
So go fight hard—and win, my star!

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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