

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?

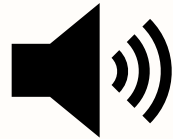
Today's Objectives:

- 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.



10:55 – 14:48

Listening Activity

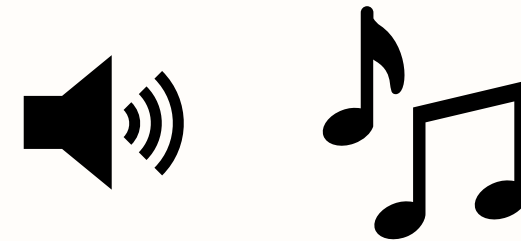
Emotions observed:



***Il barbiere di Siviglia* Synopsis**

In the opera *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, the clever and resourceful barber Figaro helps Count Almaviva win the heart of Rosina, who is closely watched by her overbearing guardian, Dr. Bartolo. The Count, desiring to be loved for who he truly is rather than for his wealth, has assumed the identity of a poor student named Lindoro to win her affection. Through a series of disguises and clever schemes, Count Almaviva reveals his true identity to Rosina, and they plan to marry. Despite Bartolo's attempts to thwart them, Figaro's wit and cunning ultimately ensure a happy ending for the young lovers.

Listening Activity



CONTE

Ecco ridente in cielo
spunta la bella aurora,
e tu non sorgi ancora
e puoi dormir così?
Sorgi, mia dolce speme,
vieni bell'idol mio,
rendi men crudo, oh Dio,
lo stral che mi feri.
Oh sorte! già veggo
quel caro sembiante,
quest'anima amante
ottenne pietà!
Oh, istante d'amore!
Felice momento!
Oh, dolce contento
che equal non ha!

COUNT

Lo, in the smiling sky,
the lovely dawn is breaking,
and you are not awake,
and you are still asleep?
Arise, my sweetest love,
oh, come, my treasured one,
soften the pain, O God,
of the dart which pierces me.
Oh, joy! I now see
that dearest vision,
has she taken pity
on this soul in love?
Oh, moment of love!
Oh, moment divine!
Oh, sweet content
which is unequalled!

Act I, Scene 1: “Ecco ridente in cielo (Lo, in the smiling sky)”

Count Almaviva stands beneath Rosina's window on the street, desperately in love and eager to catch a glimpse of her. He serenades her passionately and receives no response.

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

“Fake Love” by Drake (Excerpt)

I've been down so long it look like up to me
They look up to me
I got fake people showin' fake love to me
Straight up to my face, straight up to my face

Yeah, straight up to my face, tryna play it safe
Vibe switch like night and day, I can see ya like right away
I came up, you changed up, I caught that whole play
Since then, it's never been the same

That's when they smile in my face
Whole time they wanna take my place

What poetic devices can you find in this example?

Poetic Devices Examples

“**The Passionate Shepherd to His Love**” by Christopher Marlowe (Excerpt)

Come live with me and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove,
That Valleys, groves, hills, and fields,
Woods, or steepy mountain yields.

And we will sit upon the Rocks,
Seeing the Shepherds feed their flocks,
By shallow Rivers to whose falls
Melodious birds sing Madrigals.

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

“Ecco ridente in cielo”

Count Almaviva stands on the street beneath Rosina's window. Desperately in love and excited at the prospect of seeing her, he serenades her but receives no response.

CONTE

Ecco ridente in cielo
spunta la bella aurora,
e tu non sorgi ancora
e puoi dormir così?
Sorgi, mia dolce speme,
vieni bell'idol mio,
rendi men crudo, oh Dio,
lo stral che mi feri.
Oh sorte! già veggo
quel caro sembiante,
quest'anima amante
ottenne pietà!
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Oh, moment of love!
Oh, moment divine!
Oh, sweet content
which is unequalled!

Poetic Devices Examples

Personification:

“Ecco ridente in cielo“ (“Lo, in the smiling sky.”)

Symbolism:

“Rendi men crudo, oh Dio, lo stral che mi feri”
 (“Soften the pain, O God, of the dart which pierces me.”)

Rhyme:

“Felice momento! Oh, dolce contento.”
 (“Oh, moment divine! Oh, sweet content.”) *Note: the rhyme works in Italian*

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

Standing near

Hope takes flight

A sacred song

In morning light

Silence like dawn unfolds

Notes of love

Yet untold

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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