

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?

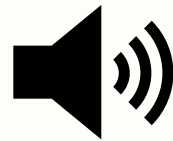
Today's Objectives:

- 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.



Track #15
03:56 – 05:32

Listening Activity

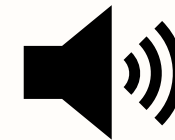
Emotions observed:



***Florencia en el Amazonas* Synopsis**

The story follows the legendary diva, Florencia Grimaldi, and her fellow passengers on a boat ride down the Amazon. As they travel through the enchanting rainforest toward their destination—the opera house in Manaus, Brazil—each passenger holds a secret hope for what the journey will bring.

Listening Activity



Act II, Scene 11: Cristóbal, Cristóbal (“Eschúchame [Hear me]”) (Excerpt)

A storm has caused the El Dorado to crash. This scene features the aria, “Eschúchame.” Following the storm Florencia wonders if she is dead or alive, can Cristóbal hear her? Is he alive?

FLORENCIA

¿En qué momento era ya tarde?
Cristóbal, Cristóbal
Solo deseaba que escucharas de mis labios
que tue amor fu eel impulse de mi vida
Sé que estás cerca
Pero no sé si en la vida o en la Muerte
¿Es este tu recuerdo o eres tú?
Por Piedad, Cristóbal
muerto o vivo
¡Eschúchame!

FLORENCIA

When did it become too late?
Cristóbal, Cristóbal?
I only wish that you could hear from my lips
that your love was the force of my life
I know you are near
But I don’t know whether in life or death
Is this a memory or is it you?
Have mercy, Cristóbal
dead or alive
Hear me!

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 Broken Appointment” by Thomas Hardy

You did not come,
And marching Time drew on, and wore me numb,—
Yet less for loss of your dear presence there
Than that I thus found lacking in your make
That high compassion which can overbear
Reluctance for pure lovingkindness' sake
Grieved I, when, as the hope-hour stroked its sum,
You did not come.

You love not me,
And love alone can lend you loyalty;
—I know and knew it. But, unto the store
Of human deeds divine in all but name,
Was it not worth a little hour or more
To add yet this: Once you, a woman, came
To soothe a time-torn man; even though it be
You love not me?

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

Poetic Devices Examples

“**Metamorphosis**” by Sylvia Plath

Hunched like faun, he hooded
From grove of moon-glint and fen-frost
Until all owls in the twigged forest
Flapped black to look and brood
On the call this man made.

No sound but a drunken coot
Lurching home along river bank;
Starts hung water-sun, so a rank
Of double star-eyes lit
Boughs where those owls sat.

An arena of yellow eyes
Watched the changing shape he cut,
Saw hoof harden from foot, saw sprout
Goat-horns; marked how god rose
And galloped woodward in that guise.

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

“Eschúchame” (Excerpt)

A storm has caused the El Dorado to crash. This scene features the aria, “Eschúchame.” Following the storm Florencia wonders if she is dead or alive, can Cristóbal hear her? Is he alive?

FLORENCIA

¿En qué momento era ya tarde?
Cristóbal, Cristóbal
Solo deseaba que escucharas de mis labios
que tu amor fue el impulso de mi vida
Sé que estás cerca
Pero no sé si en la vida o en la Muerte
¿Es este tu recuerdo o eres tú?
Por Piedad, Cristóbal
muerto o vivo
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Have mercy, Cristóbal
dead or alive
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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



Are you here, Cristobal?

I feel the air move with your spirit.

The wind moves through the trees, and I can hear it!

Is it really you or only a dream?

My love for you is like the blazing sun

Shining down on both us.

Is it really you or only a dream?

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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