

# Responding to Key Scenes

Enriching the Humanities Through Opera

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

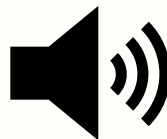
## **Today's Objectives:**

- 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.



00:07 – 04:14

# Listening Activity

Emotions observed:

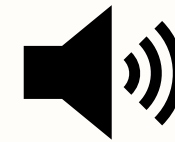


# *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

## Synopsis

In the woods outside Athens, Oberon, King of the Fairies, quarrels with his queen, Tytania, over a boy she refuses to give up. Oberon sends his servant, Puck, to retrieve a magic flower to enchant her and distract her. Meanwhile, Lysander and Hermia flee into the forest to escape a forced marriage, pursued by Demetrius and Helena. Puck accidentally enchants Lysander instead of Demetrius, creating chaos. A group of workers also enters the forest to rehearse a play, and Puck further complicates matters by turning one of them, Bottom, into an ass, causing Tytania to fall in love with him. In the end, the enchantments are undone, the lovers are reconciled, and they all return to Athens for Theseus's wedding, where the workers perform their play.

# Listening Activity



## Act I, Scene 2: “I know a bank”

Oberon, King of the Fairies, reveals his plan to Puck and seeks his help to enchant Tytania, the Fairy Queen, and the human lovers using the juice of a magical flower.

### OBERON

Welcome, wanderer. Hast thou the flower there?  
I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,  
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,  
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,  
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine:  
There sleeps Tytania sometime of the night,  
Lull'd in these flowers with dances and delight;  
And there the snake throws her enamell'd skin,

Weed wide enough to wrap a fairy in:  
And with the juice of this I'll streak her eyes,  
And make her full of hateful fantasies.  
Take thou some of it, and seek through this grove:  
A sweet Athenian lady is in love  
With a disdainful youth: anoint his eyes;  
But do it when the next thing he espies  
May be the lady: thou shalt know the man  
By the Athenian garments he hath on.

# 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

“**Sonnet 27: Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed**” by William Shakespeare

Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed,  
The dear repose for limbs with travel tired;  
But then begins a journey in my head,  
To work my mind, when body's work's expired:  
For then my thoughts (from far where I abide)  
Intend a zealous pilgrimage to thee,  
And keep my drooping eyelids open wide,  
Looking on darkness which the blind do see:  
Save that my soul's imaginary sight  
Presents thy shadow to my sightless view,  
Which, like a jewel hung in ghastly night,  
Makes black night beauteous and her old face new.  
Lo, thus, by day my limbs, by night my mind,  
For thee, and for myself, no quiet find.

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

# Poetic Devices Examples

**“First Alzheimer's Sonnet”** by Marilyn Nelson

A wave enters the membrane labyrinth,  
and something mushrooms from nothing to now.  
Unacted on, thought disappears from sense  
like the vapor trail of a skeptic's awe:  
Look up, no trace remains. The road to hell  
is paved with good intentions once conceived  
of, twice forgotten in a micromill-  
isecond, cumulus lost on a breeze.  
What if for a brief moment the flame burns  
higher, as a thought forms of you, my dear,  
then psses back into oblivion?  
Each cloud is a face of the atmosphere,  
as each wave is an aspect of the sea.  
Forget you? Never. Not while I am.

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

# “I know a bank”

Oberon, King of the Fairies, reveals his plan to Puck and seeks his help to enchant Tytania, the Fairy Queen, and the human lovers using the juice of a magical flower.

## OBERON

Welcome, wanderer. Hast thou the flower there?  
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May be the lady: thou shalt know the 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



That bank you speak of — oh, I know it well!  
Where thyme whispers secrets no mortal can tell,  
Tytania's heart shall twist and stray,  
And love's mischief will have its way.  
Oh, what sport! Human fates we shall spin  
Twisting hearts like leaves in the wind.  
Fear not, good Oberon, I'll find them with glee,  
And misplace their reason most artfully!

# Response Poem Example



*inspired by genz slang*

If we peeps have sussed

While we cooked

Brush this off as

no cap rizz sorry

**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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