

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?

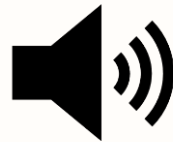
Today's Objectives:

- 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.



Listening Activity

Emotions observed:



***Everest* Synopsis**

The opera *Everest* follows the harrowing true stories of climbers Rob Hall, Doug Hansen, and Beck Weathers during their 1996 attempt to summit Mount Everest. It shifts between the climbers' present struggles on the mountain, their past memories, and the perspectives of their loved ones, including Rob's wife, Jan, who is contacted in New Zealand about his perilous situation. As Beck battles delirium and Rob tries to save Doug during a fierce storm, the climbers confront haunting realizations and their deep connections to those they love.

Listening Activity



Scene 10. The Huddle

Rob and Doug inch towards the South Summit, battling the brutal elements, while Jan anxiously awaits further news. In a poignant quartet, Rob, Doug, Jan, and Beck reflect on the excruciating cold and the thin line between life and death, as Beck collapses unconscious on the South Col.

QUARTET

ROB / DOUG / JAN / BECK

Too easy to die,
Easy as falling asleep.
To float, to let go, to be carried away...
Tell me you feel the unbearable cold.
The burn, the shiver...
the crush of the wind,
Feel it...Feel it...
The surge of blood,
like a million knives
cutting the tips of your fingers.
Tell me you feel all of this...
For now--only life's pain
says it is not over yet.

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

Simile:

"Easy as falling asleep" - compares dying to the act of falling asleep.

"The surge of blood, like a million knives cutting the tips of your fingers" - compares the sensation of blood rushing to the feeling of being cut by knives.

Metaphor:

"To float, to let go, to be carried away" - metaphorically describes the ease of dying as floating and being carried away.

Poetic Devices Examples

Imagery:

"The burn, the shiver... the crush of the wind" - uses vivid descriptions to create a sensory experience.

"The surge of blood, like a million knives cutting the tips of your fingers" - provides a graphic visual and tactile image.

Personification:

"only life's pain says it is not over yet" - attributes the ability to communicate to "life's pain."

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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

In the bitter cold's embrace, they abide,

Where death whispers softly by their side.

Blood surges like knives, yet they defy,

Life's pain insists, it's not time to say goodbye.

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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