

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?

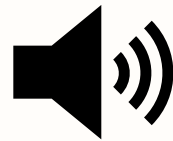
Today's Objectives:

- 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.



2:42:23 – 2:47:04

Listening Activity



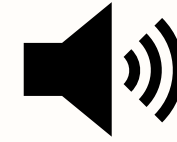
Emotions observed:

The Marriage of Figaro, an opera composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with a libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte, is a comedic exploration of love, deception, and social class. Set in a single day, the story follows Figaro and his fiancée Susanna as they navigate the scheming intentions of Count Almaviva, who wishes to seduce Susanna before her marriage. Through a series of clever disguises, misunderstandings, and unexpected alliances, the characters ultimately triumph over the Count's advances, celebrating love and the spirit of equality in the end.

***Le nozze di Figaro* Synopsis**

Set within a single day, the story is a comedic exploration of love, deception, and social class. It follows Figaro and his fiancée Susanna as they navigate the scheming intentions of Count Almaviva, who wishes to seduce Susanna before her marriage. Through a series of clever disguises, misunderstandings, and unexpected alliances, the characters ultimately triumph over the Count's advances, celebrating love and the spirit of equality in the end.

Listening Activity



Act IV, Scene 10: Deh vieni, non tardar (Excerpt)

Disguised as the Countess, Susanna sings in the moonlit garden as part of a scheme she and the Countess devised to expose the Count's infidelity. Figaro overhears and grows suspicious as she delivers an enchanting song, seemingly inviting "her lover" to join her. Aware of Figaro's presence, Susanna sings to him.

SUSANNA

Deh, vieni, non tardar, o gioia bella,
vieni ove amore per goder t'appella,
finché non splende in ciel notturna face;
finché l'aria è ancor bruna, e il mondo tace.
Qui mormora il ruscel, qui scherza l'aura,
che col dolce sussurro il cor ristaura,
qui ridono i fioretti e l'erba è fresca,
ai piaceri d'amor qui tutto adescà.
Vieni, ben mio, tra queste piante ascose.
Vieni! vieni! Ti vo' la fronte incoronar di rose!

SUSANNA

Come now, delay not, lovely joy,
come where love calls you to pleasure.
The nocturnal torch shines not yet in heaven;
the air is still murky, and the earth silent.
Here the brook murmurs, the breezes play and
with gentle sighing refresh the heart.
Here flowers are laughing, and the grass is cool;
all things beckon to love's delights.
Come, my soul, within this hidden grove.
Come! I would crown your brow with roses!

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

“Invitation to Love” by Paul Laurence Dunbar (Excerpt)

Come when the nights are bright with stars
Or come when the moon is mellow;
Come when the sun his golden bars
Drops on the hay-field yellow.
Come in the twilight soft and gray,
Come in the night or come in the day,
Come, O love, whene'er you may,
And you are welcome, welcome.

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

Poetic Devices Examples

“The Summer Day” by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean —

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down —

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down

into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,

which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?

What poetic devices can you find in this example?

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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



Does she crown another with her roses fair?
Or do shadows play tricks in the evening air?
Oh, cruel night, reveal what's hidden from me—
Is her heart still mine, or adrift at sea?

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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