

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?

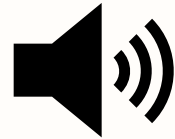
Today's Objectives:

- 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.



Act IV

19:55 – 21:57

Listening Activity

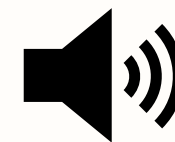
Emotions observed:



***Macbeth* Synopsis**

The opera *Macbeth*, based on Shakespeare's play, tells the story of a Scottish nobleman who rises to power through a series of murders to maintain his hold on the throne. After encountering witches who predict his future, Macbeth becomes consumed by ambition and, with the encouragement of his wife, Lady Macbeth, murders King Duncan and seizes the throne. However, his reign is plagued by paranoia, violence, and corruption, leading to his and Lady Macbeth's downfall as they become increasingly tyrannical and consumed by guilt.

Listening Activity



Act IV, Scene 4: “Una macchia è qui tuttora (There’s still a spot here)” (Excerpt)

Lady Macbeth, tormented by guilt, sleepwalks, haunted by the crimes she and her husband have committed.

LADY MACBETH

Una macchia è qui tuttora.
Via, ti dico, o maledetta!
Una, Due, gli è questa l'ora!
Tremi tu? non osi entrar?
Un guerrier così codardo?
Oh vergogna! orsù, t'affretta!
Chi poteva in quel vegiardo
Tanto sangue immaginar?

LADY MACBETH

There’s still a spot here.
Away, I tell you, curse you!
One, two, it is time!
Are you shaking? Don’t you dare go in?
A soldier and so cowardly?
Shame! Come on, hurry!
Who would have thought that there would
be so much blood in that old man?

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

“my tears ricochet” by Taylor Swift (Excerpt)

[Verse 2]

We gather stones, never knowing what they'll mean
Some to throw, some to make a diamond ring
You know I didn't want to have to haunt you
But what a ghostly scene
You wear the same jewels that I gave you
As you bury me

[Chorus]

I didn't have it in myself to go with grace
'Cause when I'd fight, you used to tell me I was brave
And if I'm dead to you, why are you at the wake?
Cursing my name, wishing I stayed
Look at how my tears ricochet

What poetic devices can you find in this example?

Poetic Devices Examples

“The Second Coming” by W.B. Yeats (Excerpt)

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

What poetic devices can you find in this example?

“Una macchia è qui tuttora” (Excerpt)

Lady Macbeth, tormented by guilt, sleepwalks, haunted by the crimes she and her husband have committed.

LADY MACBETH

Una macchia è qui tuttora.
Via, ti dico, o maledetta!
Una, Due, gli è questa l'ora!
Tremi tu? non osi entrar?
Un guerrier così codardo?
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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



Lady Macbeth, thy words do echo still,
In darkest halls, where shadows chill and thrill.
A stain of guilt upon thy hand doth lie,
A blemish on thy soul, that will not die.

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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