This assignment will test your understanding of poetry terms and figurative language.

Inside this handout, you will find an entire, completed project. You may NOT use any

of the songs found here as examples.

I will be watching your grammar, spelling and punctuation. Neatness, and the care you

take in presenting your paper, will also be a factor in determining your mark. A proper

title page and organized main body is expected. You can type it, or write neatly, in blue

or black pen, on one side of unlined paper.

**You will choose one song that will be your main song**. This song will provide you

with lyrics, a summary and theme. You can also use it for any of your figurative

analysis throughout the paper.

You are expected to work on your own, and find your own research. You should not

use songs that your classmates use. No copying. I will help you as much as I can.

**I do not want you to use the internet to find the analysis of your song.** I want your

own interpretation and the reasons why YOU believe it. Back up your opinions with

examples from the song.

Marking scheme:

Title page = 5 marks

Song lyrics (for your main song) = 5 marks

Summary of song = 5 marks

Theme = 5 marks

Figurative analysis = 52 marks

Sloppiness = -5 marks

Inappropriate lyrics = -5 marks

I want you to provide three (3) examples for each of the following:

• metaphor • hyperbole

• simile • alliteration

• personification

•

and one (1) example of each type of imagery (sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch).

You must also provide the name of the song and the singer/band name (.5 point), the

line from the song (.5 point), and the analysis for each item (1 point). See the example to

help you understand what is required.

You may use as many songs as you need to complete the assignment. Please use

Palatino or Times New Roman, 12 pt. for your font.

On the next page, there is a sample title page. Please follow this format when you

create the title page of your report.

For each figurative language items that you find, you need to have three items:

1. Identify the song

2. Quote the lyrics from the song

3. Analyze the lyrics

Here is an example of what is required:

Further examples can be found in the “completed assignment” on the following pages.

Lyric Poetry Analysis • Major Poetry Assignment • 2011

2

**Personification**

1. ! “Stairway to Heaven” by Led Zeppelin

! “Your stairway lies on the whispering wind”

! The wind cannot whisper.

Lyric Poetry Analysis • Major Poetry Assignment • 2011

3

Lyric Poetry

Song Analysis

Main Song: “Forever Young” by Alphaville

Submitted by: Joe Student

Teacher: Mr. Kanary

“Forever Young” by Alphaville

Let's dance in style, lets dance for a while

Heaven can wait we're only watching the skies

Hoping for the best but expecting the worst

Are you going to drop the bomb or not? 4

Let us die young or let us live forever

We don't have the power but we never say never

Sitting in a sandpit, life is a short trip

The music's for the sad men 8

Can you imagine when this race is won

Turn our golden faces into the sun

Praising our leaders we're getting in tune

The music's played by the madmen 12

Forever young, I want to be forever young

Do you really want to live forever, forever and ever 14

Some are like water, some are like the heat

Some are a melody and some are the beat

Sooner or later they all will be gone

Why don't they stay young 18

It's so hard to get old without a cause

I don't want to perish like a fading horse

Youth is like diamonds in the sun

And diamonds are forever 22

So many adventures couldn't happen today

So many songs we forgot to play

So many dreams are swinging out of the blue

We let them come true 26

Lyric Poetry Analysis • Major Poetry Assignment • 2011

4

Summary

This song focuses on youth and fear of death. There is a regret that life is too

short (Line 7: “life is a short trip”), and current society is not as great as the

past (Line 23: “So many adventures couldn’t happen today”). The song also

uses two metaphors for life: the race (Line 9) and the passage of a day (Line

10). Life seems to be a time of waiting for death, which is inevitable, and could

be soon (Lines 3 and 4: “Hoping for the best but expecting the worst/Are you

going to drop the bomb or not?”).

**Theme**

Carpe Diem: Sieze the day. Live life to the fullest, as it is short, and could end suddenly.

**Figurative Language Analysis**

**Metaphor**

1.! “Forever Young” by Alphaville

! “Can you imagine when this race is won”

Life is compared to a race.

2.

3.

**Simile**

1. ! “Forever Young” by Alphaville

! “Youth is like diamonds in the sun”

Youth is being compared to diamonds in the sun: shiny and eternal.

2.

3.

**Hyperbole**

1. ! “Paradise by the Dashboard Light” by Meatloaf

! “Baby don’t ya hear my heart/You got it drowning out the radio”

! His heart is beating hard, but it isn’t really that loud.

2.

3.

Lyric Poetry Analysis • Major Poetry Assignment • 2011

5

**Alliteration**

1. ! “Limelight” by Rush

! “And we are merely players, performers and portrayers”

! Repetition of the “p” sound.

2.

3.

**Assonance**

1. ! “Limelight” by Rush

! “The real relation, the underlying theme”

! Repetition of the long “e” sound.

2.

3.

**Personification**

1. ! “Stairway to Heaven” by Led Zeppelin

! “Your stairway lies on the whispering wind”

! The wind cannot whisper.

2.

**Imagery**

Sight: !“Endless Summer Nights” by Richard Marks

! ! “And the way your hair would glisten in the sun”

Sound: ! “The Voice” by The Moody Blues

! ! “You’re already falling, it’s calling you”

Smell:!! “Scent” by Die Krupps

! ! “Preserving this scent is my aim”

Taste:! ! “Taste It” by INXS

! ! “Sweet sweet sweet, could you taste it”

Touch:!! “Sometimes When We Touch” by Dan Hill

! ! “And sometimes when we touch, the honesty’s too much”

Lyric Poetry Analysis • Major Poetry Assignment • 2011

7