**English 10 Name:**

**Mr. Fisher**

**Sing Me A…Poem?**

Poetry can come in many forms, and does not always appear on a page. In fact, poetry can be found in nearly all songs that have lyrics (even in songs by Miley Cyrus, though that is called “bad” poetry). In school, we often read poetry that was written at least 50 years ago. For a change, I’d like us to turn our attention to some of best poetry of the last half-century.

Your Task: Select a song that has lyrics that you like. You must then teach the song to the class as if it were a poem.

The Project:

1) You MUST have a handout to distribute to every member of your class. This handout must have the exact lyrics to the song you plan to teach. **You are responsible for making your own copies**. However, if you hand me the lyrics with your name on it at least 24 hours in advance, I will make the copies for you. I will **NOT** make your copies otherwise. **You cannot present your poem without the lyrics**.

2) Explain any background to the song you plan to teach or the artist who performed it. Only give information that is either interesting or relevant. I do not want to know at what age Taylor Swift lost her first tooth unless the song is entitled, “I Was Nine (When I Lost My First Tooth).” This should only take a few minutes.

3) Play the song for the class to hear. You can bring the music on a CD or an MP3 player. You can also play the song from an online music site if you know you can find it there. **If you have no music, you will lose points, but can still present your poem.**

4) After the song is finished, explain its meaning to the class. You may do this by either examining the song overall or dissecting it line by line (or stanza by stanza). Choose your approach based on the song you teach.

5) Finally, find at least FIVE poetic elements in the song and **explain them**. Do not just list them.

6) Explain your personal history with the song. Why did you choose it? You may do this part of your presentation either at the beginning or at the end.

7) The entire presentation should take about 10 -15 minutes (including the song) to complete.

The Grade:

You will be graded on the quality of your lesson. Did you explain the song well? Did you give relevant background information? Were you prepared to teach the lesson? Did you explain your poetic elements well? You will be graded based on the accompanying rubric.

Rubric:

SKILL Failing Needs Improvement Proficient - Proficient + Advanced

Preparation/Presentation 1 2 3 4 5

Background Information 1 2 3 4 5

Explanation of song 1 2 3 4 5

Analysis (poetic elements) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_/25 🡪 \_\_\_\_\_\_/50

Disclaimers and Other Annoying Rules:

1) Keep your song clean! If there are a few “dirty words,” you may “bleep” them out using the volume knob. If there are many more, it could lead to a loss of points. Acceptable words include: Ass, Hell, Damn, Bird, Sex, Love, Butt, and Golly. Unacceptable words include: F\*\*\* (in all its forms), Sh\*\*, C\*\*\*, D\*\*\*, T\*\*, C\*\*\*, P\*\*\*\* (the last five are all body parts) and Peanut Butter.

2) Any songs that include gratuitous sexual references should not be presented. If you think it would make Mr. Fisher blush if he had to play the song for Mrs. MacDonald, then you may want to choose another song. If you are unsure, feel free to show Mr. Fisher a copy of the lyrics to get his approval.

3) If the song can be described either as racist or homophobic, it cannot be used. If the song degrades women, then it is unacceptable.

4) You all will be assigned a day to deliver your report. If you want to switch your day for any reason, find someone willing to switch with you. Then, **BOTH OF YOU** come to Mr. Fisher and he will make the change.

5) If we do not get to your report on the day you are scheduled, you will be pushed back to the very next day.

6) If you are unprepared to deliver your report the day you are scheduled to do so, you will get a ZERO, unless you show up to present your song on the “Make Up Day.” Even if you present then, there will be 20 POINTS deducted from your grade. The lesson: Be ready on your assigned day!

7) If you are absent the day of the presentation, you must come to the “Make Up Day” and present your song for FULL CREDIT. This will be held on **Friday, June 1, right after school in Room C207 (here)**.