**Literary Techniques Used in Song Lyrics**

Song lyrics use literary techniques to give the song a powerful impact:

* **Repetition** of a strong word, phrase or line emphasizes the idea and gives it power.

Example: “All we are saying is give peace a chance.”

* Strong **imagery** uses visual word “pictures” to illustrate strong situations.

Example: “And I can see those fighter planes/Across tin huts as children

sleep/Through the alleys of quiet city street.””

* An **allusion** is made when a writer refers to something from history, a geographical location, a famous person or popular culture that an educated reader is expected to recognize. Allusions help writers to represent an idea.

Example: “Like Judas of old you lie and deceive”

* **Rhyme** “I scrutinize every word, memorize every line

I spit it once, refuel, re-energize and rewind

I give sight to the blind, my insight through the mind

I exercise my right to express when I feel it's time”

* **Onomatopoeia** is a word whose sound hints at its meaning.

Example: “Visions clash, planes crash”

* **Personification** is giving human qualities to inanimate objects/things.

Example: “My blood’s so mad feels like coagulatin’.”

* **Metaphors** are comparisons that do not use like or as.

Example: the hammer in If I had a Hammer

* **Similes** are comparisons that use like or as.

Example: “His face red like a rose on a thorn bush.”

* **Symbolism** is using concrete/real objects/things to represent an important or abstract idea.

Example: a dove can represent peace

**NOW YOU TRY!**

1. “Across the field you see the sky ripped open/see the rain through a gaping wound…”

(“Bullet the Blue Sky” – U2)

Technique:

Comparison:

Effect:

2. “This guy comes up to me/his face red like a rose on a thorn bush/like all the colours of a royal flush…” (“Bullet the Blue Sky” – U2)

Technique:

Comparison:

Effect:

3. “In the howling wind comes a stinging rain/see it driving nails/into the souls on the tree of pain…” (“Bullet the Blue Sky” – U2)

Technique:

Comparison:

Effect:

**Part B: Symbolism, Allusion, Repetition and Rhyme**

**Identify the Technique**

Describe the Effect

Example:

“Put your faith and your trust as I guide us through the fog/to the light at the end of the tunnel” (“Mosh” - Eminem)

Technique: The technique used is symbolism.

Effect: This is an extended metaphor in which Eminem is using “the fog” to symbolize the propaganda, lies and misinformation the US government is feeding the public regarding the war against terrorism. He uses “the light at the end of the tunnel” to symbolize the truth and clarity he is offering through his lyrics.

**NOW YOU TRY!**

1. “Strap him with an AK-47, let him go fight his own war/let him impress daddy that way…”(“Mosh” – Eminem)

Technique:

Effect: