

USE  
SONG LYRICS  
TO TEACH  
FIGURATIVE  
LANGUAGE!

"Firework"  
by Katy Perry

*Created by Tracee Orman*

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## Note to Teacher \* Table of Contents

Thanks for downloading this lesson! If you arrived here via my blog, thank you for visiting it! If you have no idea what I'm referring to, here's my post about using this lesson in class:

[USE POPULAR MUSIC TO TEACH POETIC DEVICES AND FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE](#)

### Procedure:

This activity should be used AFTER students have reviewed the different devices and types of figurative language. If you need a lesson, there are many presentations available online. Here are a couple of mine (the presentations are almost identical, but the first one is editable in ppt format and the second one has additional activities/handouts for the students; both are included in my [Poetry Resources bundle](#)):

[Figurative Language & Poetic Devices Powerpoint Presentation](#)  
[Poetry Terms Presentation w/Song Lyric Examples & Exercises](#)

After you have reviewed the terms, give them this exercise. I allow my students to work with a partner, if they like, and play the song a couple of times. (I own it, but you can find it on [YouTube](#) or purchase via [iTunes](#).)

Depending on the grade and level of your students, they may not be able to find all of the devices. Feel free to help them; go through each line together after they've had a chance to look themselves or with a partner. Some of my students point out additional devices, and some miss some of the "easy" ones. But it's important to go over it together so they can learn how to identify them.

After they have identified the devices, reinforce the reason writers use figurative language: to add interest, make comparisons, convey emotion, allow readers (or listeners) to visualize their words, aid in comprehension, form a connection, and on and on. Have them imagine what the song would sound like without the figurative language and poetic devices.

**Extended activity:** Have your students re-write the song without the figures of speech and poetic devices. (If they think rhyming words and using figurative language is hard, this "reverse" writing is actually tougher!)

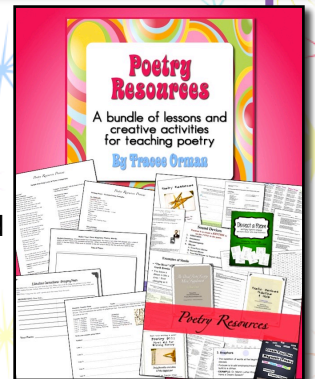
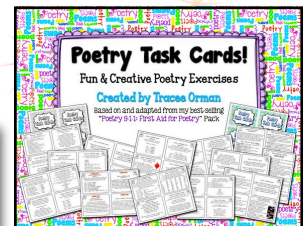
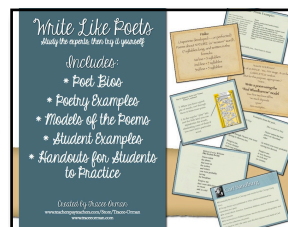
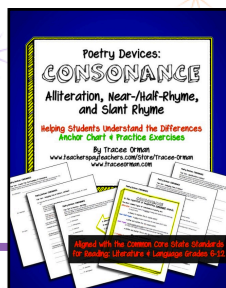
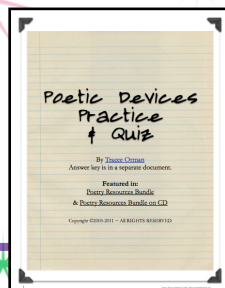
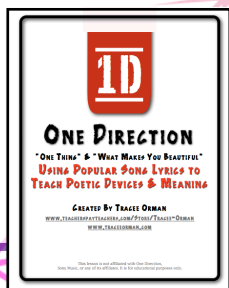
### Common Core Standards practiced (anchor standards):

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.5](#) (extended activity practices "trying a new approach"), [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.3](#), [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.5](#), [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2](#)

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You might like...





**Identify, label, and explain** the type of figurative language or poetic device used in the song lyrics. Examples may include: imagery devices such as metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole; sound devices such as alliteration, assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia, rhyme; and rhetorical devices such as anaphora and epistrophe.

<p>"Firework" by Katy Perry Identify &amp; Label the Poetic Devices</p>	<p>Explain the Poetic Devices Used</p>
<p>1 Do you ever feel like a plastic bag 2 Drifting through the wind 3 Wanting to start again</p>	
<p>4 Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin 5 Like a house of cards 6 One blow from caving in</p>	
<p>7 Do you ever feel already buried deep 8 Six feet under scream 9 But no one seems to hear a thing</p>	
<p>10 Do you know that there's still a chance for you 11 'Cause there's a spark in you 12 You just gotta ignite the light 13 And let it shine 14 Just own the night 15 Like the Fourth of July</p>	
<p><b>(Chorus)</b> 16 Cause baby you're a firework 17 Come on show 'em what you're worth 18 Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" 19 As you shoot across the sky 20 Baby you're a firework 21 Come on let your colors burst 22 Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" 23 You're gonna leave 'em fallin' down</p>	
<p>24 You don't have to feel like a waste of space 25 You're original, cannot be replaced 26 If you only knew what the future holds 27 After a hurricane comes a rainbow</p>	
<p>28 Maybe you're the reason why all the doors are closed 29 So you can open one that leads you to the perfect road 30 Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow 31 And when it's time, you'll know 32 You just gotta ignite the light 33 And let it shine 34 Just own the night 35 Like the Fourth of July <b>(Repeat Chorus)</b></p>	
<p>36 Boom, boom, boom 37 Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon 38 It's always been inside of you, you, you 39 And now it's time to let it through</p>	

**TEACHER'S GUIDE**

<p>"Firework" by Katy Perry Identify &amp; Label the Poetic Devices</p>	<p>Explain the Poetic Device Used</p>
<p>1 Do you ever feel like a plastic bag 2 Drifting through the wind 3 Wanting to start again</p>	<p>Do <u>you ever</u> feel like a plastic bag (<b>simile: you=bag</b>) Drifting through the <u>w</u>ind <u>W</u>anting to start again (<b>alliteration: wind, wanting</b>)</p>
<p>4 Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin 5 Like a house of cards 6 One blow from caving in</p>	<p>Do <u>you ever</u> feel, feel so paper <u>thin</u> (<b>simile: you=paper/house of cards</b>) Like a house of cards One blow from caving <u>in</u> (<b>true rhyme: thin=in</b>) (<b>hyperbole: you caving in</b>)</p>
<p>7 Do you ever feel already buried deep 8 Six feet under scream 9 But no one seems to hear a thing</p>	<p>Do <u>you ever</u> feel already buried deep <u>S</u>ix feet under <u>s</u>cream But no one <u>s</u>eems to hear a thing (<b>anaphora: Do you ever</b>) (<b>alliteration: Six, scream, seems</b>)</p>
<p>10 Do you know that there's still a chance for you 11 'Cause there's a spark in you 12 You just gotta ignite the light 13 And let it shine 14 Just own the night 15 Like the Fourth of July</p>	<p>Do you know that there's still a chance for you 'Cause there's a spark in you You just gotta <u>ignite the light</u> (<b>internal rhyme: ignite, light</b>) And let it shine Just <u>own</u> the <u>night</u> <u>L</u>ike the Fourth of July (<b>true rhyme: light=night</b>) (<b>simile: you (you is implied)=Fourth of July</b>) (<b>personification: implied that Fourth of July owns the night</b>)</p>
<p><b>(Chorus)</b> 16 Cause baby you're a firework 17 Come on show 'em what you're worth 18 Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" 19 As you shoot across the sky 20 Baby you're a firework 21 Come on let your colors burst 22 Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" 23 You're gonna leave 'em fallin' down</p>	<p>Cause baby <u>you're a firework</u> (<b>metaphor: you're a firework</b>) Come on show 'em <u>what you're worth</u> (<b>alliteration: work, what, worth</b>) (<b>assonance: work, worth</b>) Make 'em go "<u>Oh, oh, oh!</u>" (<b>onomatopoeia: oh, oh, oh</b>) <b>As you shoot across the sky</b> (<b>hyperbole: you shoot across the sky</b>) Baby you're a firework <u>C</u>ome on let your <u>c</u>olors burst (<b>alliteration: Come, colors</b>) Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!" You're gonna leave 'em fallin' down</p>
<p>24 You don't have to feel like a waste of space 25 You're original, cannot be replaced 26 If you only knew what the future holds 27 After a hurricane comes a rainbow</p>	<p>You don't have to feel like a waste of space (<b>simile: you=waste of space</b>) You're original, cannot be replaced If you only knew <u>what the future holds</u> (<b>personification: future holds</b>) After a hurricane <u>comes a rainbow</u> (<b>irony: hurricane/rainbow</b>)</p>

Continued

<p>"Firework" by Katy Perry Identify &amp; Label the Poetic Devices</p>	<p>Explain the Poetic Device Used</p>
<p>28 Maybe you're the reason why all the doors are closed                      29 So you can open one that leads you to the perfect road                      30 Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow                      31 And when it's time, you'll know                      32 You just gotta ignite the light                      33 And let it shine                      34 Just own the night                      35 Like the Fourth of July  <b>(Repeat Chorus)</b></p>	<p>Maybe you're the reason why all the doors are <u>closed</u>                      So you can open one that <u>leads you</u> to the perfect <u>road</u>                      (personification: <u>door leads you</u> - door is implied with the word "one")                      (assonance: <u>closed, road</u>)                      Like a lightning bolt, your <u>heart will blow</u>                      (hyperbole: <u>heart will blow</u>; personification: <u>heart will blow</u>)                      And when it's time, you'll <b>know</b>                      (true rhyme: <b>blow=know</b>)                      You just gotta ignite the light                      And let it shine                      Just own the night                      Like the Fourth of July                      (true rhyme: <b>light=night</b>)</p>
<p>36 Boom, boom, boom                      37 Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon                      38 It's always been inside of you, you, you                      39 And now it's time to let it through</p>	<p><b>Boom, boom, boom</b>                      (onomatopoeia: <b>boom, boom, boom</b>)                      Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon                      It's always been inside of you, you, <b>you</b>                      And now it's time to let it <b>through</b>                      (true rhyme: <b>you=through</b>)</p>

In addition...

*You and your students may find more examples. These are just a few. The repetition of words in lines 36-38 can be an example of epistrophe; the chorus being repeated is also an example of epistrophe.*

*Some words are not spoken, but implied from previous lines. For example, in lines 5-6 "you" is still being implied from line 4 in the comparison of "you" being "like a house of cards/One blow from caving in."*

**ADVANCED:** The first three lines may be an allusion to the 1999 movie "American Beauty" and the iconic image of the plastic bag dancing in the wind, giving it a deeper metaphor (see [this article by Alan Ball](#) from Slate.com).

Although, if you want to look at it in a *cynical* way, maybe the "house of cards" in line 5 is an allusion to [The Brady Bunch episode](#) where Tiger, the dog, knocks down the cards in the boys vs. girls contest. ;]

**CREDITS/DISCLAIMER:**

Song lyrics from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vILgvQErn6o> (Play the audio in class while they work. This is from the official KatyPerryMusic YouTube channel, not me.)

Song released August 24, 2010; from the album *Teenage Dream*, Copyright owned by Capitol Records; lyrics written by Perry, Tor Hermansen, Mikkel Eriksen, Sandy Wilhelm, Ester Dean THIS LESSON IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH KATY PERRY OR CAPITOL RECORDS; IT IS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

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