English 9

Fredericton High School

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***Between Shades of Gray –* Musical Representation**

Writers of all genres explore through their craft what it means to be human. Novelists, poets, essayists, lyricists, bloggers – they all write about the same things. The fundamental threads of humanity can be found in all genres of text.

Your assignment is to connect the novel *Between Shades of Gray* to a song of your choice. Select a song that connects in some way to the novel.

**PROCESS**

1. Scan your music playlist to find a suitable song to connect to the novel.
2. Examine the lyrics of the song. Highlight all of the possible connections that you can make to the novel. Your ideas may include a few of the following topics.
   1. imagery
   2. language
   3. setting
   4. character
   5. voice
   6. philosophy
   7. theme
   8. tone
   9. situation
3. Based on the insights you discover in #2, create a comparative analysis of how the song relates to the novel.
   1. Overall, what is the basic connection?
   2. How do specific lyrics connect?
4. Present your findings to the class
   1. Play the song (or a portion) while displaying the lyrics on the screen.
   2. Tell the class how the song connects to the novel. Be thorough. Be insightful.

*Learning Targets:*

* *present your learning to a groups of listeners in a coherent and meaningful manner*
* *explore relationships among texts and demonstrate insightful understanding of text*
* *draw conclusions about content, form, and structure*
* *create an organizing structure appropriate for purpose and audience*
* *use technology to communicate ideas*

Song Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **song** | **connecting idea** | **novel** |
|  | language |  |
|  | imagery |  |
|  | setting |  |
|  | character |  |
|  | theme |  |
|  | situation |  |
|  | literary devices |  |
|  | other |  |

*Mentor Text*

Song Title: **It’s My Life** by Bon Jovi

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **song** | **connecting idea** | **novel** |
| “face in the crowd”  “Stood their ground” | **language** | - prisoners are crowded in to the cattle cars  - prisoners stood their ground and refused to sign |
| “voice …when I shout it out loud”  “don’t bend, don’t break” | **imagery** | - plenty of shouting (NKVD, prisoners)  - prisoners are broken & bent |
|  | **setting** |  |
| strong, determined, persistent | **character** | Lina  Elena |
| control your own life  make your own breaks  stand for what you believe | **theme** | resilience  identity  dignity |
| overcoming obstacles | **situation** | overcoming abuse |
|  | **literary devices** |  |
|  | **other** |  |