

Lesson Plan 4 - Lyrics and Performance



Essential Questions:

- What makes one person, especially an artist, famous or successful?
- What are major similarities and differences between Arab culture and “western” culture?

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Describe the tone and genre of Umm Kulthum’s lyrics,
- Compare and contrast the lyrics and performance style of Umm Kulthum with those of a contemporary singer

Standards Alignment:

- Common Core Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies
 - RH 1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
 - RH 2. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions
 - RH 5. Describe how a text presents information
- National Standards for Foreign Language Education
 - Standard 3.2: Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures (through analysis of lyrics)

Materials:

- Umm Kulthum lyrics sheet, “You Are My Life”
- “*Anta Omri / You Are My Life*” Concert Performance
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPGHpBOt5sE>
- Adele lyrics sheet “Someone Like You”
- “Someone Like You” Concert Performance
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WsO41YkYpY&noredirect=1>
- Compare and Contrast Worksheet

Procedure (suggested time):

Opening/Hook/Activate Prior Knowledge/Do Now: (10)

As students come in, they should write their answer in a journal or on other paper to the prompt you have written on the board:

Think about the lyrics of songs you like. What are the songs talking about? What is the tone of the songs (happy, sad, angry, etc.) Why do you like listening to those lyrics?

After students have finished writing, ask them to turn to a partner and share their answers. If there is time, ask some of the partners to share their answers with the group. Explain that in this lesson, you are going to explore the lyrics and performance of one of Umm Kulthoum's songs, comparing it to a famous contemporary performer.

Inquiry Activity: Lyric Analysis and Comparison (20)

Divide students into groups and hand out lyrics "You Are My Life." Instruct students to watch the performance of the song, and follow along with the lyrics. Instruct them to think about the following attributes of the song: subject, emotion(s), tone. Also, instruct them to pay attention to the performance itself. Who is onstage? What is the relationship between the singer and the musicians? What is the audience doing?

After the song is over, have students write down, and share their observations. Then ask students to make general statements about Umm Kulthum's lyrics and performance style.

Next, hand out lyrics to Adele's song "Someone Like You." Play the video of Adele performing her song live. Instruct students to make observations about the lyrics and performance style of Adele, just as they did for Umm Kulthum.

Simulation: Performance Style (10)

Share with students this typical concert schedule for Umm Kulthum:

Concert in the 1960s, 3 songs
Concert begins: 9:30pm

First *Wasla* 10:30 – 11:40
Intermission: 50 minutes
Second *Wasla* 12:30 – 2:40
Intermission: 50 minutes
3:30 – 4:15 Third *Wasla*
(Danielson, p. 136)

Explain that for each song, Umm Kulthum would repeat the same line many times, providing different renditions of the same line. Share Youtube clip of .

Tell students to return to their groups and choose one line from the song. Work together using tone, inflection, volume, etc. to come up with as many different ways to say the line as possible. Each person should be responsible for at least one. Then have the students come back together and perform for each other.

Closing: (10)

Have students complete Venn diagrams comparing and contrasting the lyrics and performance style of Umm Kulthum and Adele.

Students can either write or share out answers to the following prompt:

Think of one of your favorite songs. Explain the similarities and differences between Umm Kuthoum's style and lyrics and that of one of your favorite musicians.

Umm Kulthum's Concerts

excerpt from Virginia Danielson's *"The Voice of Egypt"*

"Until 1966, her concerts consisted of three songs (or *wasalat*) with intermissions of thirty to sixty minutes between them. The concerts began at 9:30 p.m. and invariably lasted well past midnight. A likely model of a lengthy performance might be:

10:30 – 11:40 First *Wasla*
Intermission: 50 minutes
12:30 – 2:40 Second *Wasla*
Intermission: 50 minutes
3:30 – 4:15 Third *Wasla*

The timing and length of her performances reflected old and important ideas associated with good singing and *tarab*: the pleasure of listening to a wonderful singer all night: the excellence of the singer who could enchant until daybreak. The dispersement of time in her performances as a whole was on this schedule even when she sang in Paris in 1967, to the amazement of French officials and the non-Arab audience. The length of her concerts, which extended to seven hours ending at 3 a.m., set a new local record. "Not even for Wagner" had the Olympia Theater remained open so late, and it was reported that special permission had to be obtained in advance from the city authorities. . . .

"Outside the concert hall the much larger audience that sustained her over the years rarely if ever came to a concert. They sat in their homes and coffeehouses, with friends and relatives, wherever a radio could receive the general program from Cairo. . . . Her concerts reached beyond Cairo into towns, villages, and camps, beyond the boundaries of Egypt, throughout the Arab world via the radio, and her audience consisted principally of people who never attended a concert. These listeners, as much as the concertgoers, evaluated, compared, complained, raved, and glorified her. Not only her performances but talk about the performances became pervasive. This audience, their attention and their talk, created the space in which she became "the voice of Egypt." (Danielson, p. 136-138)

“Anta Omri” (You Are My Life)

Your eyes took me back to my days that are gone
They taught me to regret the past and its wounds.
Whatever I saw before my eyes saw you was a wasted life.
How could they consider that part of my life?
With your light, the dawn of my life started
How much of my life before you was lost
It is a wasted past, my love.
My heart never saw happiness before you
My heart never saw anything in life other than the taste of pain and suffering.
I started only now to love my life
And started to worry that my life would run away from me.
Every happiness I was longing for before you
My dreams they found it in the light of your eyes.
Oh my heart's life, You are more precious than my life
Why I didn't meet your love a long time ago?
Whatever I saw before my eyes saw you was a wasted life.
You are my life that starts its dawn with your light.
The beautiful nights and the yearning and the great love
From a long time ago the heart is holding for you.
Taste the love with me from the kindness of my heart
Bring your eyes close so that my eyes can get lost in the life of your eyes.
Bring your hands so that my hands will rest in the touch of your hands.
My love, come, and enough.
What we missed is not little, oh love of my soul.
Whatever I saw before my eyes saw you was a wasted life.
How could they consider that part of my life?
You are my life that starts its dawn with your light.
You are more precious than my days.
Whatever I saw before my eyes saw you was a wasted life.
How could they consider that part of my life?
You are my life that starts its dawn with your light.
You are more precious than my days.
You are more beautiful than my dreams,
Take me to your sweetness—
Take me away from the universe
Far away, far away.
I and you far away, far away. Alone.
With love, our days will awaken
We spend the nights longing for each other
I reconciled with days because of you
I forgave the time because of you
With you I forgot my pains
And I forgot with you my misery.
Your eyes took me back to my days that are gone
They taught me to regret the past and its wounds.
Whatever I saw before my eyes saw you was a wasted life.
How could they consider that part of my life?

أم كلثوم - انت عمري

رجعوني عنك لأيامي اللي راحوا
علموني أندم على الماضي وجراحه
اللي شففته قبل ما تشوفك عنيه
عمر ضايح يحسبوه إزاي عليّ
انت عمري اللي ابتدي بنورك صباحه
قد ايه من عمري قبلك راح وعدّي
يا حبيبي قد ايه من عمري راح
ولا شاف القلب قبلك فرحة واحدة
ولا داق في الدنيا غير طعم الجراح
ابتديت دلوقت بس أحب عمري
ابتديت دلوقت اخاف لا العمر يجري
كل فرحه اشتاقها من قبلك خيالي
التقاها في نور عنك قلبي وفكري
يا حياة قلبي يا أغلى من حياتي
ليه ما قابلتش هواك يا حبيبي بدري
اللي شففته قبل ما تشوفك عنيه
عمر ضايح يحسبوه إزاي عليّ
انت عمري اللي ابتدي بنورك صباحه
الليالي الخلوه والشوق والحجة
من زمان والقلب شايلهم عشانك
دوق معايا الحب دوق حبه بحبه
من حنان قلبي اللي طال شوقه لحنانك
هات عنك تسرح في دنيتهم عنيه
هات ايديك ترتاح للمستهم ايديه
يا حبيبي تعالي وكفاية اللي فاتنا
هو اللي فاتنا يا حبيب الروح شويه
اللي شففته قبل ما تشوفك عنيه
عمر ضايح يحسبوه إزاي عليّ
انت عمري اللي ابتدي بنورك صباحه
يا أغلى من أيامي
يا أحلى من أحلامي
خدني لحنانك خدني
من الوجود وابعدني
بعيد بعيد أنا وانت
بعيد بعيد وحيننا
ع الحب تصحى أيامنا
ع الشوق تنام ليالينا
صاغت بيك أيامي
سامحت بيك الزمن
نستني بيك الأامي
ونسيت معاك الشجن
ودعوني عنك للأيامي اللي راحوا
علموني أندم على الماضي وجراحه
اللي شففته قبل ما تشوفك عنيه
عمر ضايح يحسبوه إزاي عليّ

"Someone Like You"

Adele

I heard that you're settled down
That you found a girl and you're married now.
I heard that your dreams came true.
Guess she gave you things I didn't give to you.

Old friend, why are you so shy?
Ain't like you to hold back or hide from the light.

[Chorus]

I hate to turn up out of the blue uninvited
But I couldn't stay away, I couldn't fight it.
I had hoped you'd see my face and that you'd be reminded
That for me it isn't over.

Never mind, I'll find someone like you
I wish nothing but the best for you too
Don't forget me, I beg
I remember you said,
"Sometimes it lasts in love but sometimes it hurts instead,
Sometimes it lasts in love but sometimes it hurts instead, "
Yeah

You know how the time flies
Only yesterday was the time of our lives
We were born and raised
In a summer haze
Bound by the surprise of our glory days

[Chorus]

Nothing compares
No worries or cares
Regrets and mistakes
They are memories made.
Who would have known how bittersweet this would taste?

Never mind, I'll find someone like you
I wish nothing but the best for you
Don't forget me, I beg
I remember you said,
"Sometimes it lasts in love but sometimes it hurts instead."

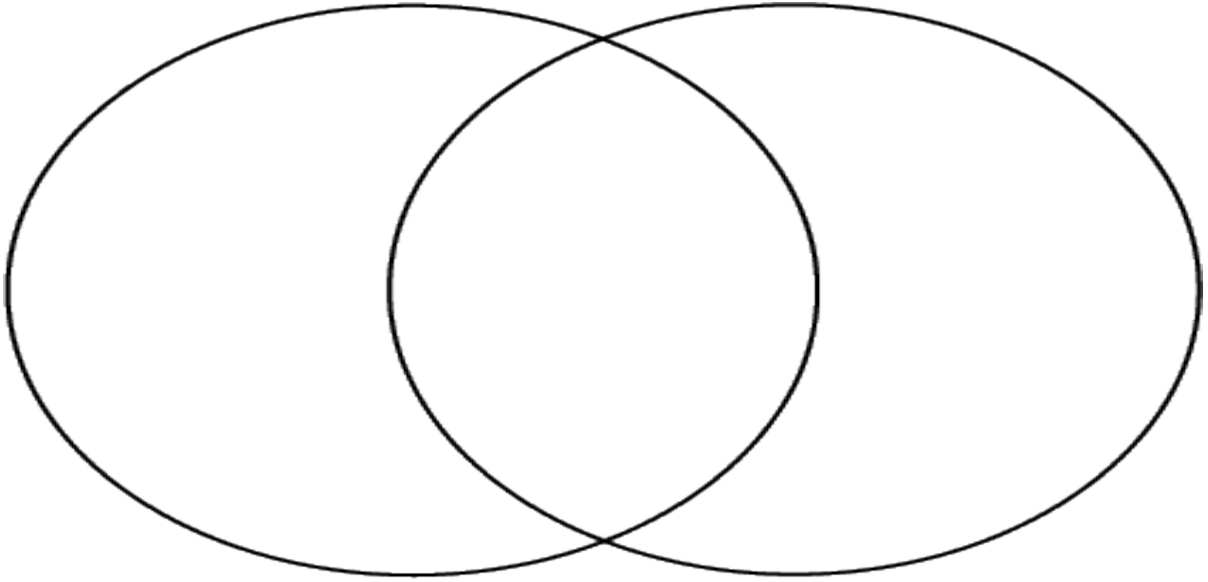
Never mind, I'll find someone like you
I wish nothing but the best for you too
Don't forget me, I beg
I remember you said,
"Sometimes it lasts in love but sometimes it hurts instead,
Sometimes it lasts in love but sometimes it hurts instead."
Yeah

Name:

Compare and Contrast Lyrics

Umm Kulthum

Adele



Compare and Contrast Concert Performances

Umm Kulthum

Adele

