**Figurative language in song lyrics**

Some of the greatest poets are song writers because they understand the impact of language on emotion. As emotion is different for everyone, the listener will take from the lyric that which stands out for him or her. The use of figurative language allows for this. When things are stated literally, they are what they are; there is little room for interpretation.

For most of us, music plays a major role in our lives. It provides comfort, allowing us to feel empathy and know that another feels as we do. It makes us laugh, feel empowered, embrace sadness (1) or life as it is right in this moment. Music can be very powerful.

You have chosen a song for a reason. The only “rule” you were given was that it must contain the use of at least 3 different figurative devices. You assignment now is as follows:

1. Write a short paragraph explaining why you chose this song. (4)
2. Identify at least 3 devices used. (3)\*\* The best way to do this is to highlight the word or phrase where the device is being used and label it with a number. Below the complete lyric, use the numbers to list the device and then give your explanation of meaning.
3. For each device example, explain its meaning.(6)
4. Of the three you chose, which is the most effective and why?(3)
5. Write a short paragraph answering whether or not the song is more impactful due to the use of figurative language. (4)

**20 marks** – paragraphs marked for detail and language, devices marked for accuracy, explanations for expansion of ideas

EXAMPLE of requirement for identification/meaning and most effective (2-4) using highlight above

1. Personification – This is personification because in order to embrace something, we need arms. Embracing is a physical human quality. We can’t really wrap our arms around sadness but it helps to show that we *can* wrap ourselves, our mind, around it, take it in so that we can really feel it, almost like giving it a hug.

* I think “embracing sadness” is really powerful because it makes it ok to feel the sadness. By giving it a hug, so to speak, we are accepting it as part of life or whatever situation we are in. Not embracing sadness means we push it away or at least block it out and this isn’t healthy. This is why I think “embracing sadness” is so powerful.