

# Music/Poetry Workshop (Spring 2023)

## Session 3: Creative Writing

(5 min introduction and greeting)

Intro activity: Meanings/Messages discussion

- Interpreting meanings from song lyrics
- What is a lyric that speaks to you and what does it mean?

Messages of music

Story-telling vs. concept-telling:

- Story-telling:
  - Story-telling often follows a plot, even in music. There are characters with motivations, moments, and sometimes dialogue, and lessons for the listener.
    - Example: **Same Old Lang Syne by Dan Fogelberg** and Rude by MAGIC!
- Concept-telling:
  - Concept-telling typically has few, if any, story-telling moments in it. The primary focus of concept-telling is to express a thought, emotion, or experience to the listener through the use of pathos argumentation.
    - Example: **I Can See Clearly Now by Johnny Nash**

Open-ended vs. closed-ended interpretation:

- Open-ended:
  - Open-ended stories leave the reader/listener with an opportunity to choose the most desired outcome.
  - This form of storytelling—or in this case, musical storytelling—can be used to provoke thoughtful contemplation through music.
- Closed-ended:
  - Closed-ended stories are precise.

- There is usually little room for interpretation.
- This form of storytelling often indicates an important lesson is to be learned, or maybe it's a blunt song.

### Closing Activity: Song-writing

- Write your own lyrics for a song/parody/own music
- Share or keep it to yourself. Up to you!

After about 10 minutes of freewriting, we will stop and return as a group once more to talk about how it went and share our work!

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**DISCLAIMER:** The purpose of this exercise is to communicate with other workshop attendees, get to know them a bit, and brainstorm material for you to write about. Please do not intentionally make anyone uncomfortable, and think before you speak about situations that are excessively or unnecessarily gory, violent, or that could trigger other people and make them feel unsafe. If you would like to talk about a topic and are unsure if it is okay, ask the group politely. If at any point you feel uncomfortable in the group, or if anyone intentionally violates these rules, please let the workshop facilitators know so that we can handle the situation.

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Please fill out a survey to help us improve the workshop, and have a great weekend!

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