

Grade 6 English Language Arts Week of March 1 – March 5

Lesson 2: Writer's Workshop Intro

In the last lesson, you read a poem about a dream for a better world. Do you agree with the statement: "Poetry can change the world"?



As you explore poetry through music and spoken word, you will write a "Five Paragraph Essay" - don't worry, the lessons have step-by-step guidance for this. You will also write your own Spoken Word poem. This writing won't be as difficult as it sounds. There is support for these tasks in the lessons, as well as enjoyable music and spoken word poems to enjoy.

You will use your "Critical Thinking Competencies" to analyze evidence, gather information, and make choices for your essay and spoken word poem that will help you create an impact on your audience - your teacher, home facilitator, and anyone else you choose to share this body of work with.

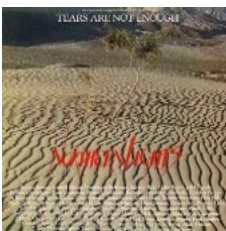
So do you agree with the statement: "Poetry can change the world"?

Can Poetry Change the World?

In the past 40 years, artists of all kinds have responded to problems. In music, the lyrics (the words) are powerful examples of poetry. **Lyrics can be written for many purposes** - entertainment, education, a way to express emotions or to process events, to raise awareness of a cause, or to respond to an issue or problem. This lesson will explore three of these songs - one from the 1980s, one from 2010, and one from 2015.

TEARS ARE NOT ENOUGH

Album cover shows the parched Ethiopian land.



Tears Are Not Enough is a song that was recorded in 1985 by a group of Canadian musicians under the group name, *Northern Lights*.

Purpose: to raise money for relief for people in the African country of Ethiopia.

People were starving because they had not had enough rain and could not grow food.

Result:

The song ended up being the #1 hit in Canada for the year 1985 and money from the sales of the song supported efforts to help Ethiopia.

Here are some of the lyrics. You may wish to read them twice – the second time with more expression than the first:

<i>As every day goes by</i>	<i>How can we look away</i>
<i>How can we close our eyes</i>	<i>'Cause every single day</i>
<i>Until we open up our hearts</i>	<i>We've got to help at any cost</i>
	<i>We can bridge the distance</i>
<i>We can learn to share</i>	<i>Only we can make the difference</i>
<i>And show how much we care</i>	<i>Don't you know that tears are not enough....</i>
<i>Right from the moment that we start</i>	
<i>Seems like overnight</i>	
<i>We see the world in a different light</i>	
<i>Somehow our innocence is lost</i>	

Do you remember the concepts of theme and mood?

THEME

Remember, the **theme** in a story, movie, or poem is its **underlying message**, or **big idea**. It is the **critical belief about life** that the author is trying to convey.

MOOD

Mood is the **atmosphere** or **emotion** of a story or poem. A mood can be calm and peaceful, depressing or gloomy, hopeful, happy, angry, or any other atmosphere or emotion.

What mood do you think is created in Tears Are Not Enough? What words support the development of this mood? As you listen to the music, think about how both the words and images contributes to the mood.

Listen to the song. If your home facilitator is with you, he or she may be able to name some of the famous Canadian singers. Try not to laugh at the 1980s hairstyles! Think:

- **What is the theme of the song?**
- **What is the mood of the song?**



Tears Are Not Enough – Northern Lights: <https://youtu.be/VJN3u1wAWik>

Complete the following activity.

Tears Are Not Enough

1. What is the theme of the song? To find the theme, think:

A) What is the topic? The topic is:

B) What is the theme (underlying message about the topic)?

2. A) What is the mood of the song? (Describe the mood (or moods) in one sentence.)

B) Why do you think this is the mood? (Cite evidence from the song.)