

# Poetry in music

N. Flood and S. Whyte - Second Year English

## TOPIC OVERVIEW

Students are studying a unit of poetry under the theme of protest. We decided to pick a song which was linked to this theme and disguise it as a poem. We chose 'Blackbird' by The Beatles because the story behind the song linked closely to the themes of To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee which the students studied this year. Paul McCartney had a poetry book called 'Blackbird Singing' and had written the song about the racial tensions in the United States in 1968.

## LESSON PLAN OUTLINE

- Students were given an introduction to the lesson and task for the class was explained
- Students were given the worksheet which had blank spaces which they had to fill in
- Both teachers circulated around the classroom and helped the students write their poems
- Students were asked for their suggestions
- Some students were asked to read their poem aloud
- Song was played for students
- Explanation was given - what the poem was about and theme
- Links were made between poetry and song lyrics
- For homework students had to find another song

## GROUP ACTIVITY

Students write their own version of 'Blackbird' by filling in the blank spaces. Students must come up with a title for their poem.

## RESOURCES

- Worksheet (song with blanked words)
- Video Clip of 'Blackbird'



## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will write their own version of Blackbird
- Students will make links between poetry and song
- Students will identify poetic techniques

## HOW DID IT GO? (EVALUATE)

The class went really well and students enjoyed writing their own version of the poem. Each student came up with very unique poems which had different themes and devices. This type of methodology has been used in the class before so the students knew what they were doing and did not need much assistance from the teachers. If we were doing the class again we might plan something which was new to the students as we both felt that this class would have been very manageable with one teacher.

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

Students enjoyed the class and commented that it was more fun learning about poetry outside of the textbook. Students said the homework task was enjoyable. They all came up with great ideas and identified many poetic devices in their song choices.