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I am so pleased that you have downloaded this free product, and I hope it proves useful in your classroom. Please, don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, and know that feedback is always much appreciated!

If you like this lesson plan, have a look at my FULL 'Analysing Music Videos' pack for sale in my store for an additional FIVE LESSONS just like this one!

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Analyzing Music Videos

'HALL OF FAME' by The Script feat. will.i.am

Lesson Plan

The following activities and worksheets are all based on the song 'Hall of Fame' by The Script ft. will.i.am. You need to be able to play the music video to students, as all activities stem from there.



MUSIC VIDEO: <http://www.vevo.com/watch/the-script/hall-of-fame/GB1101200733>

NOTE: If, for some reasons, this link doesn't work, just search 'Hall of Fame by The Script' on YouTube and you should find the video.

This is an amazing song all about what it means to be 'great', and the music video depicts two unlikely 'heroes' overcoming obstacles in the pursuit of 'greatness'.

■ **START** by introducing a discussion with students about the idea of superheroes.

- The following questions may prompt discussion:
 - » What do you understand by the term: 'Hall of Fame'?
(This should generate some discussion, but ultimately you must explain that a hall of fame is a building containing trophies or tributes to famous people.)
 - » Who do you think deserves to be in a Hall of Fame?
(There is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer here, and predictably students will say that it would be people who have had huge success e.g. famous sports people, celebrities etc.)

■ **PLAY** the music video to students, once through.

■ **DISCUSS** first impressions of the song and video.

- Did you like the song/video? Why or why not?
- Which parts of the video were particularly memorable?
- How would you describe the guy who is the boxer? How would you describe the ballerina?
- Why did the girl place her hand on the speaker?
- What do you think is the 'message' that this video is trying to communicate?
- If this song is called 'Hall of Fame', why are the main characters particularly 'average'?

■ **PLAY** the video again.

■ **INSTRUCT** students to get into pairs and hand out the worksheet 'Hall Of Fame'.

- Students must discuss the music video and fill in this table as comprehensively as possible.

■ **REVIEW** and discuss the table with students.

■ **HAND OUT** the worksheet 'Analyzing Extracts from 'Hall Of Fame''.

- This activity could be completed individually or in pairs, but essentially, students must examine the lyrics and answer the questions in writing.

■ **REVIEW** and discuss with students.

* The answer key has been provided.

This exercise necessitates a closer examination of the lyrics and requires students to exercise critical thinking skills of literary analysis.

Follow-Up Lesson / Homework Idea

Students must imagine that they are either the boxer, or the ballerina from the music video and then write a series of 3 or 4 diary extracts explaining what their daily life is like. They must include some of the events portrayed in the music video.

A template page has been provided.

HALL OF FAME

by The Script
feat. will.i.am

After watching the music video, fill in this worksheet.

	The Boxer	The Ballerina
How does their family treat them? Explain.		
How do other people treat them? Explain.		
What difficulties do they face?		
How do they overcome these difficulties?		
How are they examples of 'heroes'?		

These pictures are from the end of the music video. How do they 'visually' communicate the meaning of the song?



Describe:

Explain:



Describe:

Explain:

Analyzing extracts from 'HALL OF FAME' BY THE SCRIPT (feat. will.i.am)

Read the following lyrics from the song and then answer the questions next to them.

Yeah, you can be the greatest
You can be the best
You can be the King Kong
 banging on your chest
You could beat the world
You could beat the war
You could talk to God,
 go banging on his door

- 1.1. Who was King Kong? What does he represent?
- 1.2. How important are the words 'can' and 'could' in this song? What do they mean?
- 1.3. What does it mean to 'beat' the world and the war?
- 1.4. Why do you think that talking to God is mentioned here?



You can throw your hands up
You can beat the clock
You can move a mountain
You can break rocks
You can be a master
Don't wait for luck
Dedicate yourself and you gon'
 find yourself

- 2.1. What does the gesture of throwing your hands up mean?
- 2.2. What does it mean to 'beat the clock'?
- 2.3. Is it really possible to 'move a mountain'? So what does it mean?
- 2.4. How can you 'be a master' of something?
- 2.5. Why not 'wait for luck'?



You can go the distance
You can run the mile
You can walk straight through
 hell with a smile
You could be the hero
You could get the gold
Breaking all the records they
thought never could be broke

- 3.1. Is he literally talking about 'running' here? Explain your answer.
- 3.2. Why would you walk through hell with a smile?
- 3.3. What 'gold' could he be referring to here? Try to think of THREE possible meanings (both literal and figurative).
- 3.4. Who are the 'they' referred to in the second last line?



Yeah, do it for your people
Do it for your pride
How you ever gonna know if
 you never even try?
Do it for your country
Do it for your name
'Cause there's gonna be a day...
When you're standing in the
 hall of fame

- 4.1. For what/who should you aspire to greatness?
- 4.2. What type of question is this one and why is it used?
- 4.3. What does it mean to be 'standing in the hall of fame'?



Be students
Be teachers
Be politicians
Be preachers
Be believers
Be leaders
Be astronauts
Be champions
Be truth seekers

- 5.1. Choose any three of this list, and for each one explain how these people are 'great'. How are they worthy of being in the hall of fame?
- 5.2. What is meant by being a 'truth seeker'? How important is it to be one?



Standing in the hall of fame
And the world's gonna know
 your name
'Cause you burn with the
brightest flame
And you'll be on the walls of
 the hall of fame

- 6.1. Do you think that it is important that the world knows your name? Is this the only test of greatness?
- 6.2. Identify and explain the figure of speech used in the line: 'You burn with the brightest flame'.



TEACHER'S MEMORANDUM

Analyzing extracts from 'HALL OF FAME' BY THE SCRIPT (feat. will.i.am)

The following are just suggested answers. As is the case with poetry, there are often different possible interpretations and so other, well-reasoned and well-written answers should be considered.

- 1.1. Who was King Kong? What does he represent?
He was a giant gorilla monster in the film *King Kong*. He represents power and greatness because of his size and strength. A 'King Kong' is even defined in the dictionary as 'someone or something of outstanding size or strength'.
- 1.2. How important are the words 'can' and 'could' in this song? What do they mean?
They are modal verbs, and therefore they mean 'to be able to'. This is very important in this song as it is all about the *possibilities* of what you can achieve if you put your mind to it.
- 1.3. What does it mean to 'beat' the world and the war?
It means to defeat, or to win; to overcome and be the victor.
- 1.4. Why do you think that talking to God is mentioned here?
Again it is part of the idea of reaching for greatness – all the way up to God's door. To be able to directly bang on God's door, signifies that you have a certain power or prominence.
- 2.1. What does the gesture of throwing your hands up mean?
Usually it means surrender or to give up.
- 2.2. What does it mean to 'beat the clock'?
To succeed before you are meant to, or quicker than expected. Also it signifies superhuman abilities as time is usually seen as a fixed concept and so 'beating' it is a true feat.
- 2.3. Is it really possible to 'move a mountain'? So what does it mean?
No it is not, not literally. But figuratively it means to achieve something seemingly impossible or have spectacular results. Obviously it also relates to having extraordinary strength and power.
- 2.4. How can you 'be a master' of something?
A 'master' of something is usually somebody who is exceptionally skilled in one particular area. Also, the verb 'to master' means to overcome and achieve complete understanding of an area of knowledge, or skill.
- 2.5. Why not 'wait for luck'?
The idea here is that one should take one's own destiny in one's hands. You cannot control luck, but you can control your future, so you must be proactive about it.
- 3.1. Is he literally talking about 'running' here? Explain your answer.
Yes and no. He could literally be talking about becoming an accomplished sportsman or runner, but it is far more likely that his meaning is figurative. That is; to win, to successfully complete the race of life without giving up. Interestingly, 'to go the distance' is also a boxing term, meaning to complete a fight without being knocked out. Therefore it means to succeed without being defeated; to overcome.
- 3.2. Why would you walk through hell with a smile?
You wouldn't literally; again though, it has a more figurative meaning. That is, to be able to even go through the tough times and still be victorious – you can do the impossible.

- 3.3. What 'gold' could he be referring to here? Try to think of THREE possible meanings.
Literally it could be a gold medal, such as an Olympic medal which symbolises that you are the very best. It could also be a reference to money, meaning to achieve financial success. But it can also be a more figurative reference to gaining something very precious and highly prized.
- 3.4. Who are 'they' referred to in the second last line?
'They' could be the world in general; everyone around you. All those influences who said 'it can't be done'.
- 4.1. For what/who should you aspire to greatness?
You should strive to be great for your 'people', that is, for your friends and family; for yourself and your own pride; for your country; and for your name, that is, for your own identity and fame.
- 4.2. What type of question is this one and why is it used?
It is a rhetorical question and therefore it is not meant to actually be answered, but rather to provoke thinking about the issue. The answer is implied.
- 4.3. What does it mean to be 'standing in the hall of fame'?
It means that you have achieved something worthy of being commemorated. That you will forever be remembered for what you did or achieved.
- 5.1. Choose any three of this list, and for each one explain how these people are 'great'. How are they worthy of being in the hall of fame?
This answer is opinion-based and discretionary. Answers should demonstrate thinking and should be well-phrased and explained.
- 5.2. What is meant by being a 'truth seeker'? How important is it to be one?
'Truth' means something which is accurate or faithful to fact. It is the opposite of a lie. 'To seek' means to attempt to find, achieve or obtain. Therefore, a 'truth seeker' could be defined as somebody who attempts to do right in all that they do, and live authentic and honest lives searching out the good and genuine in life. The second part of the question is opinion-based.
- 6.1. Do you think that it is important that the world knows your name? Is this the only test of greatness?
This answer is opinion-based and discretionary. Answers should demonstrate thinking and should be well-phrased and explained. However a possible answer could be:
It can be important if you reach fame through doing good works or exceptional things; it is not a bad thing to become famous. However, it should not be the only measure of 'greatness'. You may not be famous or a celebrity, in fact you can be completely unknown, yet still do great things for people and the world.
- 6.2. Identify and explain the figure of speech used in the line: 'You burn with the brightest flame'.
This is a metaphor. You are not actually on fire, you don't burn with actual flames but you burn with passion and stand out. Note also the superlative 'brightest' – again it signifies the very best.

Writing exercise inspired by **'HALL OF FAME' BY THE SCRIPT** (feat. will.i.am)

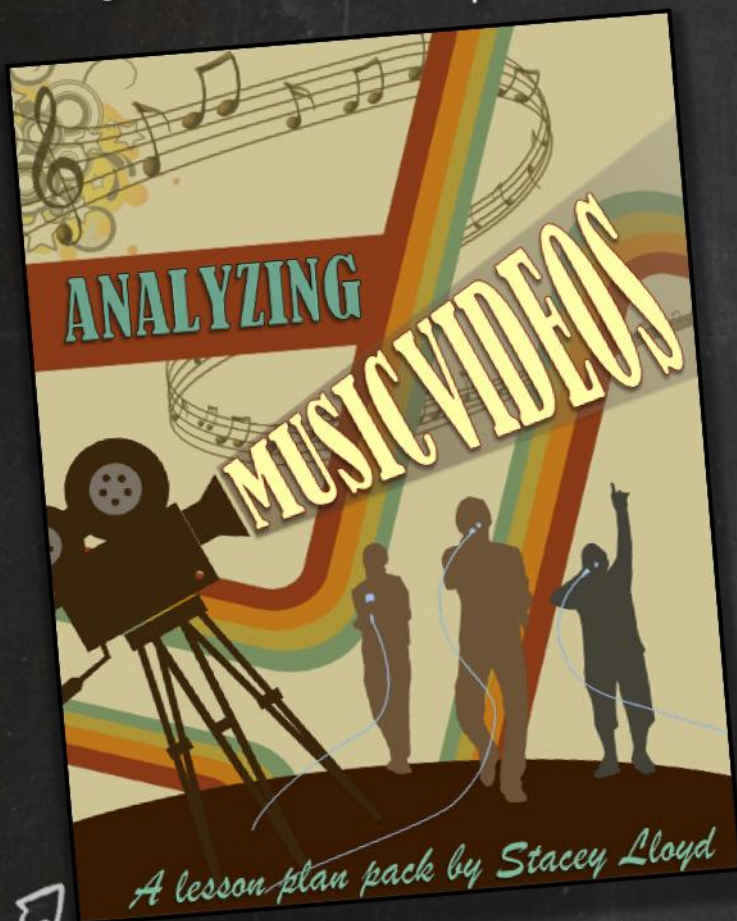
TASK

Imagine that you are either the boxer, or the ballerina and write a series of 3 or 4 diary extracts explaining what your life is like. You must include some of the events portrayed in the music video.

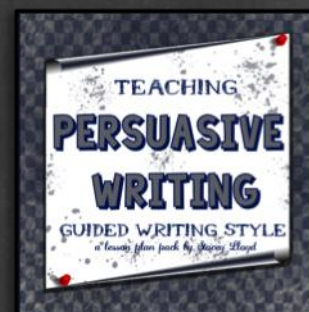
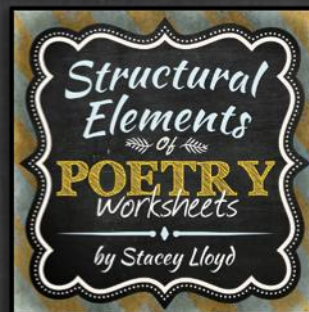
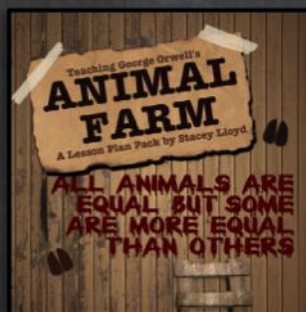
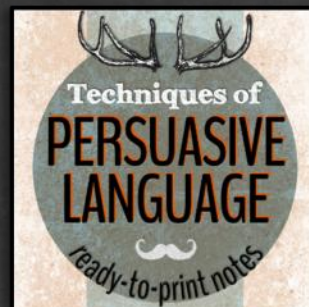
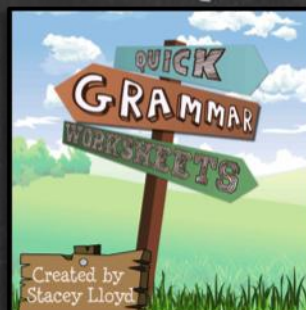
Diary

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