

Stereo Hearts

Gym Class Heroes, 2011

My heart's a stereo
It beats for you, so listen close
Hear my thoughts in every note
Make me your radio

- 5 And turn me up when you feel low
This melody was meant for you
Just sing along to my stereo

If I was just another dusty record on the shelf
Would you blow me off and play me like everybody else?

- 10 If I asked you to scratch my back, could you manage that?
Like yikki-yeah, check it Travie, I can handle that
Furthermore, I apologize for any skipping tracks
It's just the last girl that played me left a couple cracks
I used to, used to, used to, used to, now I'm over that
15 'Cause holding grudges over love is ancient artifacts

If I could only find a note to make you understand
I'd sing it softly in your ear and grab you by the hand
Just keep it stuck inside your head, like your favorite tune
And know my heart's a stereo that only plays for you

[Chorus]

- 20 If I was an old-school fifty pound boombox
Would you hold me on your shoulder wherever you walk
Would you turn my volume up in front of the cops
And crank it higher every time they told you to stop
And all I ask is that you don't get mad at me
25 When you have to purchase mad D batteries
Appreciate every mixtape your friends make
You never know we come and go like on the interstate

I think I finally found a note to make you understand
If you can hit it, sing along and take me by the hand
30 Just keep me stuck inside your head, like your favorite tune
You know my heart's a stereo that only plays for you

[Chorus]

- I only pray you'll never leave me behind (never leave me)
Because good music can be so hard to find (so hard to find)
I take your head and hold it closer to mine (yeah)
35 Thought love was dead, but now you're changing my mind...

A Red, Red Rose

Robert Burns, 1794

O my Luv¹e's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luv¹e's like a melody
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

- 5 As fair² art thou, my bonnie lass,³
So deep in luv¹e am I:
And I will luv¹e thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang⁴ dry:

- Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
10 And the rocks melt wi' the sun:
I will luv¹e thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee well, my only Luv¹e
And fare thee well, a while!

- 15 And I will come again, my Luv¹e,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile.

1 Burns, a Scottish poet, uses variant spelling.

Luv¹e = Love

2 fair = pretty, lovely

3 bonnie lass = pretty girl

4 gang = go, run



Gym Class Heroes/Robert Burns – Compare and Contrast

Questions

To receive credit, you must answer in complete, thoughtful sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Both artists use a combination of simile and metaphor in their lines. The first line of “Stereo Hearts” is a metaphor. Find and write down a simile from the lyrics. The first line of “A Red, Red Rose” is a simile. Find and write down a metaphor from the poem.

2. Both artists use exaggeration to emphasize the intensity of their love. Cite an example of this from each piece.

3. Closely examine the rhyme scheme of each piece and explain any patterns you find. What’s interesting about the writers’ rhyme scheme choices?

4. Which two lines from the Burns poem most closely echo the theme of the Gym Class Heroes song?

5. In the final stanza of the Burns poem, we discover that the lovers are soon to be parted. What effect, if any, do you suppose this impending separation is having on the couple’s love? What do you think might be causing the separation?



6. Some scholars argue that popular song lyrics do not technically qualify as poetry. Write a short passage in which you defend “Stereo Hearts” as a piece of poetry. Be sure to include an examination of at least three poetic techniques as you present your case.

7. Would it be better to have a love that’s like a red rose or a stereo? Explain the differences and defend your choice.

8. Ultimately, which of these two pieces of writing do you find more effective in communicating the narrator’s thoughts to the audience? Explain why you prefer one work over the other.

Gym Class Heroes/Robert Burns – Compare and Contrast

Questions

To receive credit, you must answer in complete, thoughtful sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Both artists use a combination of simile and metaphor in their lines. The first line of “Stereo Hearts” is a metaphor. Find and write down a simile from the lyrics. The first line of “A Red, Red Rose” is a simile. Find and write down a metaphor from the poem.

2. Both artists use exaggeration to emphasize the intensity of their love. Cite an example of this from each piece.

3. Closely examine the rhyme scheme of each piece and explain any patterns you find. What’s interesting about the writers’ rhyme scheme choices?

4. Which two lines from the Burns poem most closely echo the theme of the Gym Class Heroes song?

5. In the final stanza of the Burns poem, we discover that the lovers are soon to be parted. What effect, if any, do you suppose this impending separation is having on the couple’s love? What do you think might be causing the separation?



6. Some scholars argue that popular song lyrics do not technically qualify as poetry. Write a short passage in which you defend “Stereo Hearts” as a piece of poetry. Be sure to include an examination of at least three poetic techniques as you present your case.

7. Would it be better to have a love that’s like a red rose or a stereo? Explain the differences and defend your choice.

8. Ultimately, which of these two pieces of writing do you find more effective in communicating the narrator’s thoughts to the audience? Explain why you prefer one work over the other.