**Song Lyrics as Poetry**

**Overview**: In your *Introduction to Poetry* text, the “Singing and Saying” chapter says this:

“Although the words of a great song do not necessarily stand on their own without their music, they are not invalidated as lyrics. If the words seem rich and interesting in themselves, our enjoyment is only increased. Like most poems and songs of the past, most current songs may end up in the trash can of time. And yet, certain memorable rimed [sic] and rhythmic lines may live on, especially if they are expressed in stirring music and have been given wide exposure.”

Although it’s hard to know which of our current favorite songs will appeal to future generations, I have some songs to share that I think do hold up as poetry, and I’ll bring them in. But I’m more interested in some of *your* favorites.

**Your task:**

1. Print out the lyrics to a song you think is good at least in part because of its lyrics. If it is in some language other than English, print out a translation, as well.
2. Type up one paragraph explaining why you think the lyrics are good poetry.

You might point to the songwriter’s effective use of any relevant elements, not just the ones most closely related to sound, particularly **rhyme** and **rhythm,** but also sound effects such as **alliteration** and **assonance**. You might also like the **plot**, development of **character**(s), **tone**, **imagery, figures of speech, word choice, symbolism, allusions** (whether classical, biblical, historical, literary, or pop culture)or the song’s **message.**

DUE: I will collect these on **W 26 Oct**

We will discuss them in the following class period. We won’t have time to get through them all, but I hope to discuss a varied assortment. If you want, I’ll figure out how we can display them all on Canvas so you can benefit from each other’s wisdom.

Note: Some of you might be musicians, knowledgeable enough to discuss in detail how the words work with the music. All of you could also discuss personal reasons that the songs appeal to you. Please leave these out of the homework, though.