Analysing lyrics

**Style**  - Includes considerations such as:

Structure – or form – Do the lyrics have verses that tell a story and a repeated chorus which makes a point? Does it have verses and choruses with a regular number of lines, or any other interesting features of structural ‘design’? Does it have a pre-chorus, and does it repeat the same text? Is there a contrasting section?

Sounds – Do the lyrics rhyme? Is there a specific rhythm to the lyrics?

**Meaning** – What is the subject matter or theme of the lyrics? If “love”, then what kind of love?

What event, situation or experience do the lyrics describe or record?

**Language** – How would you describe the lyricist’s use of words – striking, effective, predictable?

Is the language appropriate to the subject matter and/or theme?

What effect does the language have on the achievement of the lyrics?

**Imagery** – Does the author use imagery in the lyrics and what effect does it have?

Simile: comparison using ‘as’ or ‘like’

E.g.: he eats like a pig

Metaphor: using words to indicate something other than the literal meaning of the words.

E.g.: he is a pig

He has a heart of stone

He has a heart like stone

Personification: regarding or representing some thing as a person.

E.g.: The blindfolded lady with the scales is the embodiment of justice.

Symbol: something that has a symbolic quality.

E.g.: white dove = peace; heart = love

**Tone** - What is the predominant emotion, mood or feeling of the lyrics? What creates it?

Does the mood change during the lyrics?

What emotions or feelings does the author seek to evoke in the reader/listener?

**Message** – What is the lyricist trying to say? What is the conclusion? Why is this (not) relevant to

us?