

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course

Date

### Why a Poem and a Popular Song should be Taught

There are much criticism when it comes to the culture comparison between that of the nineteenth century and the twenty-first century. The drift in the type of cultural preferences of the people has brought necessitate the ability to bridge the gap through the use of the educational system. It is for this reason that there is a request to allow for the use of one of the poems in the teaching chapter *Fair is my Love when her Fair Golden Hairs* by Edmund Spenser together with one popular song in our current time *Hymn for the Weekend* by Coldplay. The paper aims also to discuss one of the works by Shakespeare in relation to this topic. With reflection of both the poem and the song in regards to Shakespeare, it will help understand the difference of the highbrow and lowbrow cultures within the track of time.

The difference in the culture has been there, and it has first begun with the Shakespearean plays, operas, and other popular culture that were there during the 19th century. Most of the people loved and adored these arts and could do anything to be able to have a chance just to attend them. In this case, most of the actors who were involved in these plays chose to go to the people instead of the people going to them. "If the miners couldn't come to the big city, Shakespeare came to them; major Shakespearean actors like Edwin Booth traveled out to mining camps where they acted from cobbled together stages" (Berlatsky). The language in these plays was considered to be art because it would take the mind of an intellectual to get the message behind the text and the worlds. About this, the poem written by Edmund Spenser uses a language

that is almost similar to that of Shakespeare and Beethoven. For example, in sonnet 18 by Shakespeare, “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate” the language is compatible to that used by Edmund, “Fair, when her breast, like a rich laden bark With precious merchandise she forth doth lay.”

Both poems use comparison to correlate the subject to something natural. In the current generation, there is the use of such language, however, simple words are being used instead of difficult words like *thee*, *doth*, and etc. Intellectuals state that the language that was used in such time was superior to that being used now in the common culture. Theirs was a more developed form of expressive culture. It is as such that includes the use of the similar to the above mentioned one poems that will help increase the students’ intellectual knowledge and assist them to have an advanced knowledge of the language, especially poetic language.

Together with this, there should also be an inclusion of a popular song that would be used to this. The current pop culture is considered to be very influential and has a powerful force amongst the masses. In the U.S., the group has sold over 18.2 million album copies and has had over 33.6 million song downloads over their new album, *A Head Full of Dreams*, that is also being ranked #2 in the UK (Kuria). However, the culture itself is said to be very discrete by those who study most of the Shakespearean literature. The culture, represented by the popular song *Hymn for the Weekend* by Coldplay, lacks the idea of expression just as those that was written by greats like Shakespeare. Listening to the two side by side, it is evident that there is a significant gap between the two cultures.

However, when the two items are used together, this will help in the bridging the gap between the two cultures. Using both the traditional song and the poem, the students will be able to learn about the development of English language that was used in the creation of the two arts

in different time lines. For example, before Shakespeare became famous he was considered as a lowbrow, but as time went by, he reached to be called a highbrow. It can also be said for the current artist, as at now they can be considered as lowbrow individuals but over time, their works will make them famous just as it was for Shakespeare.

Studying the two pieces of art will also boost the students' ability to a critical thinking. It be compassed by even allowing the students to be able to deduce the message between the two arts. The poem can be stated as a highbrow culture and the song as a primitive culture. Overall, it would be imperative to be able to use the two types of culture to show numerous various aspects that are considered to have been left out of our current popular culture. When using both the poem and the song as part of their learning procedure, in relation to Shakespearean art, the students will be able to improve on what they consider as poetic art.

Works Cited

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