

Lyric Poetry Definition and Examples:

Lyric is non-narrative, short poem that reveals the speaker's personal feeling, emotion, mood, state of mind, expression, thought, attitude, perception etc. in a first person narrative. Lyric poetry does not tell any story, rather it is very personal and solely focused on the speaker's personal feeling and ideas. The speaker in a lyric poem always uses first person. For example: I, My love, etc. So, in lyric poetry, the speaker directly addresses the readers, invoking his own personal feeling and expressions.

The word 'Lyric' comes from the Greek word 'Lyre', a stringed musical instrument. Initially, Lyric poems were meant to be sung, and poets were used to singing lyric with the lyre. Originally, Lyric poets tended to be musical. In fact, musicality is one of the characteristics of lyric. However, over the time, the meaning of lyric has been changed and it no longer means music. Rather, lyric poetry is now largely meant for reading.

Explanation of the speaker's intense emotion, thought and feeling is the main purpose of lyric poetry. That is why, some critics say that 'you do not hear lyric poem; rather, you overhear lyric poem'. Among the different kinds of lyric poetry, 14-line Sonnet is most popular. Some other forms of lyric poetry are Ode, Elegy etc. For the last 500 years, lyric has been the most popular form of poetry in the world.

- Lyric Poetry: highly musical verse that expresses the speaker's feelings and observations. In ancient times poems were sung with accompaniment from a lyre. Modern lyric poems, although usually not sung, still possess musical qualities--rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, and onomatopoeia. Examples of lyric poems include "The Eagle" by Alfred Lord Tennyson, "The Bells" by Edgar Allan Poe, and "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" by William Wordsworth.

Homework Assignment:

On the next four pages are song music lyrics that are examples of lyric poems. Find an example of a song whose lyrics fit this definition of a lyric poem. Be sure to print out the lyrics and explain how it fits the definition of a lyric poem. This is due on **Thursday, January 17, 2013.**

"Be Still My Beating Heart"
Sting

Be still my beating heart
It would be better to be cool
It's not time to be open just yet
A lesson once learned is so hard to forget
Be still my beating heart
Or I'll be taken for a fool
It's not healthy to run at this pace
The blood runs so red to my face
I've been to every single book I know
To soothe the thoughts that plague me so

I sink like a stone that's been thrown in the ocean
My logic has drowned in a sea of emotion
Stop before you start
Be still my beating heart

Restore my broken dreams
Shattered like a falling glass
I'm not ready to be broken just yet
A lesson once learned is so hard to forget

Be still my beating heart
You must learn to stand your ground
It's not healthy to run at this pace
The blood runs so red to my face
I've been to every single book I know
To soothe the thoughts that plague me so

Stop before you start
Be still my beating heart

Never to be wrong
Never to make promises that break
It's like singing in the wind
Or writing on the surface of a lake
And I wriggle like a fish caught on dry land
And I struggle to avoid any help at hand

I sink like a stone that's been thrown in the ocean
My logic has drowned in a sea of emotion
Stop before you start
Be still my beating heart

"I Am A Rock"
Simon and Garfunkel

A winter's day
In a deep and dark December;
I am alone,
Gazing from my window to the streets below
On a freshly fallen silent shroud of snow.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

I've built walls,
A fortress deep and mighty,
That none may penetrate.
I have no need of friendship; friendship causes pain.
It's laughter and it's loving I disdain.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

Don't talk of love,
Well, I've heard the word before.
It's sleeping in my memory.
I won't disturb the slumber of feelings that have died.
If I never loved I never would have cried.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

I have my books
And my poetry to protect me;
I am shielded in my armor,
Hiding in my room, safe within my womb.
I touch no one and no one touches me.
I am a rock,
I am an island.

And a rock feels no pain;
And an island never cries.

Train "If it's Love" Save Me, San Francisco, 2009

While everybody else is getting out of bed
I'm usually getting in it
I'm not in it to win it
And there's a thousand ways you can skin it

My feet have been on the floor
Flat like an idol singer
Remember Winger? I digress
I confess you are the best thing in my life

But I'm afraid when I hear stories about
husband and wife
There's no happy endings, no Henry Lee
But you are the greatest thing about me

If it's love
And we decide that it's forever
No one else could do it better

If it's love
And we're two birds of a feather
Then the rest is just whatever

And if I'm addicted to loving you
And you're addicted to my love too
We can be them two birds of a feather
That flock together

Love, love
Got to have something to keep us together
Love, love
That's enough for me

Took a loan on the house I own
Can't be a queen bee without a bee throne
I wanna buy you everything except cologne
Cause its poison

We can travel to Spain, where the rain falls
mainly on the plain, sounds insane cause it
is
We can laugh, we can sing
Have ten kids and give 'em everything

Hold our cell phones up in the air
And just be glad that we made it here alive
On a spinning ball in the middle of space
I love you from your toes to your face

If it's love
And we decide that it's forever
No one else could do it better

If it's love
And we're two birds of a feather
Then the rest is just whatever

And if I'm addicted to loving you
And you're addicted to my love too
We can be them two birds of a feather
That flock together

Love, love
Got to have something to keep us together
Love, love
That's enough for me

You can move in
I won't ask where you been
Cause everybody has a past
When we're older
We'll do it all over again

While everybody else is getting out of bed
I'm usually getting in it
I'm not in it to win it
I'm in it for you

If it's love
And we're two birds of a feather
Then the rest is just whatever (x2)

If it's love
And we decide that it's forever
No one else could do it better

And if I'm addicted to loving you
And you're addicted to my love too
We can be them two birds of a feather
That flock together

Love, love
Got to have something to keep us together
love, love
Got to have something to keep us together
Love, love
That's enough for me

K'naan "Wavin' Flag"

Songwriters: Lawrence, Phillip; Mars, Bruno; Warsame, Keinan

When I get older I will be stronger
They'll call me freedom, just like a wavin' flag

When I get older, I will be stronger
They'll call me freedom just like a wavin' flag
And then it goes back, and then it goes back
And then it goes back, oh

Born to a throne, stronger than Rome
A violent prone, poor people zone
But it's my home, all I have known
Where I got grown, streets we would roam

Out of the darkness, I came the farthest
Among the hardest survival
Learn from these streets, it can be bleak
Accept no defeat, surrender, retreat

So we struggling, fighting to eat
And we wondering when we'll be free
So we patiently wait for that fateful day
It's not far away, but for now we say

When I get older I will be stronger
They'll call me freedom just like a wavin' flag
And then it goes back, and then it goes back
And then it goes back, oh

So many wars, settling scores
Bringing us promises, leaving us poor
I heard them say 'love is the way'
'Love is the answer,' that's what they say

But look how they treat us, make us
believers
We fight their battles, then they deceive us
Try to control us, they couldn't hold us
'Cause we just move forward like Buffalo
Soldiers

But we struggling, fighting to eat
And we wondering, when we'll be free
So we patiently wait for that faithful day
It's not far away but for now we say

When I get older I will be stronger
They'll call me freedom just like a wavin' flag
And then it goes back, and then it goes back
And then it goes back, and then is goes

When I get older I will be stronger

They'll call me freedom just like a wavin' flag
And then it goes back, and then it goes back
And then it goes back, and then it goes
And then it goes

And everybody will be singing it
And you and I will be singing it
And we all will be singing it

When I get older I will be stronger
They'll call me freedom just like a wavin' flag
And then it goes back, and then it goes back
And then it goes back, and then it goes

When I get older I will be stronger
They'll call me freedom just like a wavin' flag
And then it goes back, and then it goes back
And then it goes back, oh

When I get older, when I get older
I will be stronger just like a wavin' flag
Just like a wavin' flag, just like a wavin' flag
Flag, flag, just like a wavin' flag