

Mamma Mia! Lyric Deep Dive

Get ready to explore the sunny Greek island vibes and catchy tunes of Mamma Mia! We're going beyond just singing along and diving deep into what the lyrics tell us.

Materials:

- Device with internet access (for listening to songs and viewing lyrics)
- Access to Mamma Mia! movie soundtrack (e.g., YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music)
- Printed or digital copies of lyrics for selected songs (e.g., 'Mamma Mia', 'Dancing Queen', 'The Winner Takes It All', 'Slipping Through My Fingers')
- Notebook and pen/pencil or word processor

Introduction (10 mins)

Think about the movie Mamma Mia! What makes the songs so memorable? Are they just catchy tunes, or do the words tell a story? Today, we'll focus on the power of the lyrics written by ABBA's Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson.

Activity 1: Lyric Analysis - 'The Winner Takes It All' (20 mins)

Listen to the song 'The Winner Takes It All' (the Meryl Streep version from the movie is great for context). Read the lyrics carefully.

- What is the main story or situation described in the lyrics?
- Who do you think is singing, and who are they singing to? (Consider the movie character, Donna).
- Identify specific words or phrases that express strong emotions. What emotions are they (e.g., sadness, resignation, bitterness)?
- How does the music (tempo, melody, instrumentation) enhance the feeling of the lyrics?
- Are there any metaphors or similes used? What do they mean in the context of the song?

Jot down your thoughts and analysis in your notebook.

Activity 2: Compare and Contrast - 'Mamma Mia' vs. 'Dancing Queen' (15 mins)

Now, let's look at two upbeat classics. Listen to both 'Mamma Mia' and 'Dancing Queen'. Read their lyrics.

- What different situations or feelings do these lyrics describe?
- 'Mamma Mia' expresses confusion and recurring romantic feelings. Find lines that show this.
- 'Dancing Queen' expresses joy, freedom, and the excitement of youth. Find lines that show this.
- How do the lyrics contribute to the overall mood of each song?

Discuss or write down the key differences in themes and tones.

Activity 3: Creative Response (15 mins)

Choose one of the following:

1. **Rewrite a Verse:** Choose a song from Mamma Mia! and rewrite one verse from the perspective of a different character in the movie. How would Sky describe his feelings in 'Lay All Your Love on Me'? How would Sophie feel singing 'Slipping Through My Fingers' about her mom?

2. **Theme Connection:** Pick another song from the movie (e.g., 'Honey, Honey', 'Our Last Summer', 'I Have a Dream'). Analyze its lyrics briefly, identifying the main theme and how it fits into the movie's overall story.

Wrap-up (5 mins)

Think about what you learned. How important are lyrics to making a song effective, especially in a musical? Did analyzing the words change how you hear these familiar songs? Great job diving into the heart of Mamma Mia!'s music!