

# Bruno Mars: Lyric Analysis Adventure!

## Materials You'll Need:

- Printed lyrics for Bruno Mars songs (Suggestions: "Grenade", "Just The Way You Are", "Locked Out of Heaven", "Count on Me")
- Access to listen to the songs (YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music, etc.)
- Paper or notebook
- Pen or pencil
- Highlighters (optional, for identifying figurative language)

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## Introduction:

Bruno Mars isn't just known for his amazing voice and catchy tunes; he's also a talented songwriter! Song lyrics are a form of poetry set to music. Today, we're going to dive into some of his popular songs and analyze them just like we would analyze a poem or a story. Let's see what literary magic we can find!

## Activity 1: First Listen & Feel (10-15 minutes)

1. Choose one Bruno Mars song from your list.
2. Listen to the song *\*without\** looking at the lyrics first.
3. As you listen, jot down: How does the song make you feel? What do you think the song is generally about? What words or phrases stand out to you?

## Activity 2: Deep Dive into Lyrics (20-25 minutes)

1. Now, read the printed lyrics for the same song.
2. Read them through once silently.
3. Read them again, maybe listening to the song simultaneously this time.
4. Underline any words you don't know and look them up.
5. In your own words, write down what you think the main message or story of the song is. Does reading the lyrics change your initial interpretation?

## Activity 3: Figurative Language Hunt (25-30 minutes)

1. Let's review some poetic devices often found in songs:
  - **Simile:** A comparison between two unlike things using "like" or "as" (e.g., "Shine bright *\*like\** a diamond").
  - **Metaphor:** A direct comparison between two unlike things *\*without\** using "like" or "as" (e.g., "Baby, you're a firework").
  - **Hyperbole:** An extreme exaggeration used for emphasis or effect (e.g., "I'd catch a grenade for ya").
  - **Imagery:** Language that appeals to the senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to create a picture in the reader's mind.
2. Go through the lyrics of the song you chose (and maybe one more for comparison!).
3. Use highlighters or just list examples you find of simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and imagery.
4. For each example you find, explain what is being compared or what effect the device has on the song's meaning or feeling. For example, in "Grenade," the hyperbole emphasizes extreme devotion (even if it's unrealistic!).

#### **Activity 4: Theme Talk (10-15 minutes)**

1. What is the overall theme of the song(s) you analyzed? (Theme is the underlying message or big idea, like love, friendship, heartbreak, celebration, etc.)
2. How do the lyrics and the figurative language help convey this theme?
3. If you analyzed more than one song, compare their themes. Does Bruno Mars often write about similar ideas, or do the themes vary greatly?

#### **Wrap-up:**

See? Song lyrics are packed with literary techniques! Analyzing the music you love can help you become a better reader and appreciate the artistry behind songwriting. Bruno Mars uses language creatively to express emotions and tell stories, just like poets and authors do.

#### **Optional Extension:**

- Choose another Bruno Mars song and do a full analysis independently.
- Try writing your own short poem or song verse using at least two types of figurative language.
- Compare Bruno Mars' lyrical style to another artist you enjoy.