

ENGLISH – 10th-12th Grade

Are songs poems? Are poems songs? Research songwriting as literature. How does this challenge typical notions of literature? First, discuss with your peers. Then, write about your findings. Who are some other artists besides Johnny Cash whose works are known for story-telling?

Correlations to Arkansas Standards:

W11-12.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

SL.11-12.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of standard and/or formal English when appropriate

L11-12.3 Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

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Write a poem based on your personal background and childhood upbringing, like Johnny Cash did for many of his songs. A great example is “Five Feet High and Rising,” which describes flood conditions of the region. Describe how your poem would be set to music if it were made into a song. What message do you hope to convey to your audience?

Correlation to Arkansas Standards:

Era4.4.AH.9-12.4 Examine responses to natural disasters in Arkansas over time, using multiple sources CCRA.R.1, 2, 3, 7, 9 CCRA.W.7, 8, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 2, 3, 4 D2.Civ.5, 11.9-12 D2.Eco.2.9-12 D2.Geo.7, 9, 12.9- 12 D2.His.10, 11, 13, 16.9-12

Era6.6.AH.9-12.2 Examine effects of social and cultural transformations on various segments of the population across Arkansas CCRA.R.1, 3, 7 CCRA.W.2, 7, 8, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 4 D2.Civ.12, 13, 14.9-12 D2.His.1, 5, 14.9- 12

Era6.6.AR.9-12.5 Research contributions made by Arkansans in the fields of art, medicine, politics, science, and technology CCRA.R.1, 4, 7, 9 CCRA.W.2, 7, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 4 D2.His.5, 7, 11.9- 12

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How does socioeconomic background influence creative output? How did this affect the songwriting of Johnny Cash? What are some other examples in Johnny Cash's music that indicate the social and economic status of the Cash family when he was growing up?

Correlation to Arkansas Standards:

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Era6.6.AR.9-12.5 Research contributions made by Arkansans in the fields of art, medicine, politics, science, and technology CCRA.R.1, 4, 7, 9 CCRA.W.2, 7, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 4 D2.His.5, 7, 11.9- 12

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You are creating a new compilation album to commemorate the anniversary of Johnny Cash's 1968 Folsom Prison concert.

1. Create a track listing of 10 songs with annotations describing each song's contribution and place within the album's context.
2. What are the styles, genres, and themes that are notable on the album?
3. Finally, create the liner notes to accompany the album. Be sure to include some biographical information about Johnny Cash as well as historical context about what made the 1968 Folsom Prison concert such an iconic show.

Correlation to Arkansas Standards:

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Era6.6.AR.9-12.5 Research contributions made by Arkansans in the fields of art, medicine, politics, science, and technology CCRA.R.1, 4, 7, 9 CCRA.W.2, 7, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 4 D2.His.5, 7, 11.9- 12

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Select a song from the 1968 Folsom Prison concert that captures your attention and imagination. What are the themes? What rhetorical devices are used in the song? How does “song” impact literature consumption? Do a thorough song analysis.

Correlation to Arkansas Standards:

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Era6.6.AR.9-12.5 Research contributions made by Arkansans in the fields of art, medicine, politics, science, and technology CCRA.R.1, 4, 7, 9 CCRA.W.2, 7, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 4 D2.His.5, 7, 11.9- 12

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Shel Silverstein wrote a couple of Johnny Cash's well-known hits, including "25 Minutes to Go" and "A Boy Named Sue." What other types of literature did Silverstein produce? What is Silverstein most known for? What other collaborations did Johnny Cash have with writers and lyricists? Think about the differences and similarities of songs and poems.

Correlation to Arkansas Standards:

RL.11-12.7 Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem, evaluating how each version interprets the source text

W11-12.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

W11-12.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

W11-12.7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question, including a self-generated question, or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.