

I. Introduction

This is Musicology 2 : Artists. We are going to continue studying aspects of the English language and certain conversation topics using songs by artist this time.

Avril Ramona Lavigne is a Canadian - French singer who entered the music industry at the age of 17. Most critics identify Lavigne as some form between pop-rock and pop-punk. Themes in her music include messages of self-empowerment from a female or an adolescent view. She said her songs are about "being yourself no matter what and going after your dreams even if your dreams are crazy and even if people tell you they're never going to come true." Lavigne's public image has changed over time but people still remember her from when she first gained publicity with her tomboyish style, in particular her necktie-and-tank-top combinations.

II. Pre – Discussion Activity

Rewrite the following words in rhyming pairs.

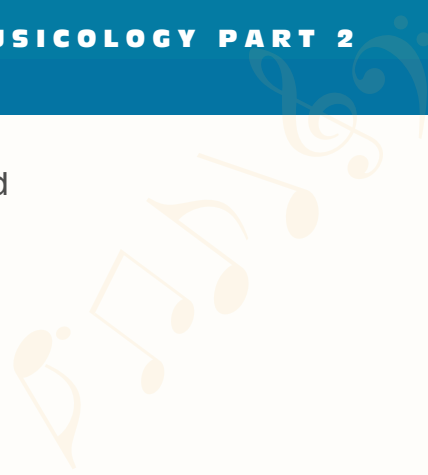
right	curl
strong	bed
wish	rough
wall	call
said	fish
tough	long
girl	bite

III. Listening

Listen to the song. This is '*Wish You Were Here*'.

WISH YOU WERE HERE 
Avril Lavigne

I can be tough
I can be strong
But with you, it's not like that at all
There's a girl
That gives a shit
Behind this wall
You've just walked through it



And I remember, all those crazy things you said
 You left them running through my head
 You're always there, you're everywhere
 But right now I wish you were here
 All those crazy things we did
 Didn't think about it, just went with it
 You're always there, you're everywhere
 But right now I wish you were here

Damn, damn, damn,
 What I'd do to have you
 Here, here, here
 I wish you were here
 Damn, damn, damn
 What I'd do to have you
 Near, near, near
 I wish you were here

I love the way you are
 It's who I am, don't have to try hard
 We always say, say it like it is
 And the truth is that I really miss
 All those crazy things you said
 You left them running through my head
 You're always there, you're everywhere
 But right now I wish you were here

All those crazy things we did
 Didn't think about it, just went with it
 You're always there, you're everywhere
 But right now I wish you were here

Damn, damn, damn
 What I'd do to have you
 Here, here, here
 I wish you were here
 Damn, damn, damn
 What I'd do to have you
 Near, near, near
 I wish you were here



IV. Discussion

1. How does the singer feel in the song? Why?
2. What is the singer's wish?
3. The song is all about missing someone. Is there someone in your life that you miss now? Who and why?
4. What makes us miss a person?
5. What made the singer miss the person she was singing about?
6. If seeing who we miss in person is not an option, what else can we do?

V. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VT1-sitWRtY>

I. Pre – Discussion

1. Which things do you value most in friendship?
2. What behavior of others hurt you most?
3. When you have upset someone by your actions, what do you try to do?
4. 'People change. *Change is the only permanent thing in this world.*' Do you agree?
5. When does change become bad?

II. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "Complicated".


COMPLICATED
Avril Lavigne

Uh huh, life's like this
Uh huh, uh huh, that's the way it is
'Cause life's like this
Uh huh, uh huh that's the way it is

Chill out, what you yellin' for?
Lay back, it's all been done before
And if you could only let it be
You will see
I like you the way you are
When we're drivin' in your car
And you're talking to me one on one
But you've become...

Somebody else 'round everyone else
You're watching your back like you can't relax
You're tryin' to be cool
You look like a fool to me
Tell me

Why do you have to go and make things so complicated?
I see the way you're acting like you're somebody else
Gets me frustrated

Life's like this
You, you fall and you crawl and you break
And you take what you get and you turn it into honesty
You promised me I'm never gonna find you fake it
No, no, no



You come over unannounced
 Dressed up like you're somethin' else
 Where you are ain't where it's at
 You see you're making me laugh out
 When you strike your pose
 Take off all your preppy clothes
 You know you're not fooling anyone
 When you've become...

Somebody else 'round everyone else
 You're watchin' your back like you can't relax
 You're tryin' to be cool
 You look like a fool to me
 Tell me

Why do you have to go and make things so complicated?
 I see the way you're acting like you're somebody else
 Gets me frustrated
 Life's like this
 You, you fall and you crawl and you break
 And you take what you get and you turn it into honesty
 You promised me I'm never gonna find you fake it
 No, no, no

No, no, no
 No, no, no
 No, no, no

III. Discussion

1. What does this verse mean?

*I like you the way you are when we're drivin' in your car.
 And you're talking to me one on one
 But you've become...somebody else 'round everyone else.
 You're watching your back like you can't relax
 You're tryin' to be cool
 You look like a fool to me*

2. What do you think of those who act differently around other people?
3. Why do you think they do that?
4. Supposing you have a friend who acts differently when you're together and when you're with other people. Are you going to confront them about it?
5. Why is it sometimes hard to be just our true selves?



IV. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NPBlwQyPWE>

I. Pre – Discussion Activity

Before listening to the song, choose the correct word or phrase in the lyrics which you think is appropriate for the sentence.

He was a punk, she **did** / **doing** ballet
What more can I say?

He **want** / **wanted** her, she'd never tell
Secretly she wanted him as well
But **her all friends** / **all of her friends**, stuck up their nose
They have / had a problem with his baggy clothes

He was a skater boy, she said, "See ya later boy"
He was not **enough good** / **good enough** for her,
She had a pretty face
But **she's** / **her** head was up in space
She needed to come back down to earth

Five years **to** / **from** now, she sits at home
Feed / **Feeding** the baby, she's all alone
She turns on TV, guess who **sees she** / **she sees**
Skater boy **rock** / **rocking** up MTV

She **call** / **calls** up her friends, they already know
And they've all got tickets **seeing** / **to see** his show
She tags along, stands in the crowd
Looks up at the man that she **turns** / **turned** down

SKATER BOY

Avril Lavigne

He was a boy, she was a girl
Can I make it anymore obvious?
He was a punk, she did ballet
What more can I say?
He wanted her, she'd never tell
Secretly she wanted him as well
But all of her friends, stuck up their nose
They had a problem with his baggy clothes
He was a skater boy, she said, "See ya later boy"

He was not good enough for her, she had a pretty face
But her head was up in space
She needed to come back down to earth
Five years from now, she sits at home
Feeding the baby, she's all alone
She turns on TV, guess who she sees
Skater boy rocking up MTV



She calls up her friends, they already know
And they've all got tickets to see his show
She tags along, stands in the crowd
Looks up at the man that she turned down

He was a skater boy, she said "See ya later boy"
He wasn't good enough for her, now he's a superstar
Slamming on his guitar
Does your pretty face see what he's worth?

He was a skater boy, she said "See ya later boy"
He wasn't good enough for her, now he's a superstar
Slamming on his guitar
Does your pretty face see what he's worth?

Sorry girl, but you missed out
Well, tough luck, that boy's mine now
We are more than just good friends
This is how the story ends

Too bad that you couldn't see
See the man that boy could be
There is more than meets the eye
I see the soul that is inside

He's just a boy and I'm just a girl
Can I make it anymore obvious?
We are in love, haven't you heard
How we rock each others world?

I'm with the skater boy, I said "See ya later boy"
I'll be backstage after the show, I'll be at the studio
Singing that song we wrote
About that girl you used to know



III. Vocabulary

Match the following expressions with their correct meanings.

1. Baggy Clothes	A) used for saying that you are not satisfied with what someone has done or is offering you
2. TO STICK UP your nose [in the air]	B) more interesting or complicated than someone or something appears at first
3. Come back down to earth	C) not fitting closely; hanging
4. There is more than meets the eye	D) means to physically lift up their heads putting their noses in the air as if to say 'he wasn't good enough'
5. Not good enough (for someone)	E) To become realistic; to become alert to what is going on around one.

IV. Discussion

The following paragraph is one of the song interpretations found online. Analyze and explore your thoughts about the song.

The song is a metaphor about two people who are unlikely to be together when in all reality they should be a couple. Although their outside appearance differs, they have what it takes to be a great team, yet because the girl was too shallow to see what was inside the punk, she missed out on a great guy. ***This song proves that you should see beyond the outside appearance and get to know a person before judging them.*** (Janelle - Louisville, KY)

<http://www.songfacts.com/detail.php?id=2309>

V. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tly3n2b7V9k>

I. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "*When You're Gone*".

WHEN YOU'RE GONE 

Avril Lavigne

I always needed time on my own
I never thought I'd
Need you there when I cry
And the days feel like years when I'm alone
And the bed where you lie
Is made up on your side

When you walk away
I count the steps that you take
Do you see how much I need you right now?

[Chorus]

When you're gone
The pieces of my heart are missin' you
When you're gone
The face I came to know is missin', too
When you're gone
The words I need to hear
To always get me through the day
And make it okay
I miss you

I've never felt this way before
Everything that I do
Reminds me of you
And the clothes you left, they lie on the floor
And they smell just like you
I love the things that you do
When you walk away
I count the steps that you take
Do you see how much I need you right now?

We were made for each other
Out here forever
I know we were
Yeah, yeah
And all I ever wanted was for you to know
Everything I do, I give my heart and soul
I can hardly breathe; I need to feel you here with me
Yeah



[Chorus]

When you're gone
 The pieces of my heart are missin' you
 When you're gone
 The face I came to know is missin', too
 When you're gone
 The words I need to hear
 Will always get me through the day
 And make it okay
 I miss you

II. Vocabulary

Choose the correct words that complete the sentences.

When you're gone
 The **pieces/peaces** of my heart are missin' you
 When you're gone
 The **face/phase** I came to know is missin', too
 When you're gone
 The words I **knead/need** to **here/hear**
 To always get me **through/threw** the day
 And make it okay

III. Discussion

Homophones / Homonyms

Words that sound like one another but have different meanings are collectively called **Homonyms**.

Specifically though, words spelled differently and have different meanings but are pronounced the same way, i.e.g dear (beloved) and deer (the animal) are called **Homophones**. Words like match (competitive sport) and *match* (a burning piece of wood or cardboard) with the same spelling and pronunciation but with different meanings are referred as **Pure Homonyms**.



IV. Exercise

Fill in the blanks with the correct missing word from the choices below. All of the missing words are homophones.

1. There's a _____ in my shirt.
a. whole
b. hole
2. I went _____ Japan for my holiday.
a. too
b. to
3. The Pirates _____ across the Pacific Ocean.
a. sail
b. sale
4. I want to ride on a _____.
a. plain
b. plane
5. He won't attend the meeting because he is feeling _____.
a. weak
b. week

V. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.




http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0G3_KG5FFfQ

I. Vocabulary Definition

In this lesson, we are going to tackle a popular and sensitive topic so before we begin, let's define terms related to the discussion later.

Cultural Appropriation

 is a sociological concept which views the adoption, "borrowing" or use of elements of one culture by members of a different culture as a largely negative phenomenon.

Oppression

 being subject to unjust treatment or control.

Racism

 the prejudice that members of one race are intrinsically superior to members of other races. Oppression is part of racism or racial discrimination.

II. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "Hello Kitty".

HELLO KITTY

Avril Lavigne

Min'na saikā arigatō,
K-k-k-kawaii, k-k-k-kawaii.

[Verse 1]

Mom's not home tonight
So we can roll around, have a pillow fight
Like a major rager OMFG

Let's all slumber party
Like a fat kid on a pack of Smarties
Someone chuck a cupcake at me

It's time for spin the bottle
Not gonna talk about it tomorrow
Keep it just between you and me

Let's play truth or dare now
We can roll around in our underwear how
Every silly kitty should be

*[Pre-chorus:]*

Come come Kitty Kitty
 You're so pretty pretty
 Don't go Kitty Kitty
 Stay with me
 Come come Kitty Kitty
 You're so silly silly
 Don't go Kitty Kitty
 Play with me

[Chorus:]

K-k-k-kawaii
 Hello Kitty, hello Kitty
 Hello Kitty, you're so pretty
 Hello Kitty, hello Kitty
 Hello Kitty, you're so silly

[Verse 2]

Wake up, got a secret
 Pinky swear that you're gonna keep it
 I've got something you need to see

Let's be friends forever
 I wanna do everything with you together
 Come and play with Kitty and me

[Pre-chorus:]

Come come Kitty Kitty
 You're so pretty pretty
 Don't go Kitty Kitty
 Stay with me
 Come come Kitty Kitty
 You're so silly silly
 Don't go Kitty Kitty
 Play with me

[Chorus:]

K-k-k-kawaii
 Hello Kitty, hello Kitty
 Hello Kitty, you're so pretty
 Hello Kitty, hello Kitty
 Hello Kitty, you're so silly

Min'na saikā arigatō! K-k-k-kawaii! [2x]
 K-k-k-kawaii! [4x]
 Meow.



III. Discussion

This song became controversial after its release as it was deemed racist and appropriating Japanese culture by featuring snippets of Japanese phrases, colorful costumes and designs, robotic, identical looking Asian back up dancers and of course, Hello Kitty, the iconic Japanese fictional character. The song and music video's Japanese pop culture theme gained negative feedback from critics but received positive reviews from Japan. Some Japanese citizens view the song as a tribute to their homeland. Others are so used to being misunderstood by the West that this "controversy" doesn't really bother them.

Discuss the article above and the following questions:

1. Do you know Hello Kitty? Does she represent the Japanese culture?
2. Do you think the song is racist? Why or why not?
3. Have you accidentally discriminated someone?
4. When do you think something or someone is being racist?
5. Is borrowing parts of other cultures acceptable?
6. Why do you think that some people consider themselves and their culture superior compared to others?

IV. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiaYDPRedWQ>