

Julia Zeikowitz

Professor Brady

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Loss Through Lyrics

“It's so much darker when a light goes out than it would have been if it had never shone.”

The quote given by John Steinbeck can be related to loss of someone, either death or resentment from someone. Losing someone close to you causes a negative effect on you and surrounding. When someone experiences a loss of someone dear to them, it is hard to express their emotions into words. The poem, *Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone* by W.H. Auden, and the poem *Favorite Color* by Jay Davis, relate to the song *Tearjerker* by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. These three works of art all relate to the common theme of loss.

The theme of loss is evident throughout the 3 different works of lyrics. The poem, *Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone* is about the physical loss of a loved one. The speaker in this poem is clearly significantly hurting since the passing of the loved one, “Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood; For nothing now can ever come to any good” (Auden). In these two lines, the reader can infer that the speaker has lost all hope of any good coming to his life since his hope in life has passed away. The poem *Favorite Color* the speaker has lost someone in a different sense. The speaker has lost her mom due to colorism. The speaker has grown up without her mom in her life because of the color of her skin. As this poem is being read, the listener is able to hear the hurt in her heart. “Humans just have crazy tendencies when we want someone to love us. I want you to stop living in black and white images” (Davis). This line from

the poem shows the reader that the speaker just wants to have her mom's unconditional love, and that she wants her mom to be more open minded, in hopes of loving her again. The song *Tearjerker* is about the loss of a close friend due to drug use and suicide. In this song, the listener can clearly hear the tone of the song, and the message the singer is trying to convey. The lines in the song, "When highs are the lows, and lows are the way, so hard to stay, I guess now you know, I love you so" (Kiedis). In these lines the singer is trying to convey how he wishes he could go back in time and tell his friend how much he loves him and appreciates him.

These three pieces all have the common theme of loss. Whether it is a significant other, mother, or close friend. They all experienced the overlapping concept of loss. The writers of these pieces felt such strong emotions towards the recent loss, they put it into beautifully said lyrics. Being able to put their feelings into lyrics, shows how much the loss has affected them.

Work Cited

Auden, W.H., *Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone*, 1938

Davis, Jay, *Favorite Color*, 2010

Red Hot Chili Peppers, *Tearjerker*, One Hot Minute, 1995