

“Desperado” by The Eagles

Desperado, why don't you come to your senses?
You been out ridin' fences for so long now.
Oh, you're a hard one.
I know that you got your reasons.
These things that are pleasin' you
Can hurt you somehow.

Don't you draw the queen of diamonds, boy;
She'll beat you if she's able.
You know the queen of hearts is always your best bet.

Now it seems to me, some fine things
Have been laid upon your table,
But you only want the ones that you can't get.

Desperado, oh, you ain't gettin' no younger.
Your pain and your hunger, they're drivin' you home.
And freedom, oh freedom well, that's just some people talkin'.
Your prison is walking through this world all alone.

Don't your feet get cold in the winter time?
The sky won't snow and the sun won't shine.
It's hard to tell the night time from the day.
You're losin' all your highs and lows.
Ain't it funny how the feeling goes away?

Desperado, why don't you come to your senses?
Come down from your fences, open the gate.
It may be rainin', but there's a rainbow above you.
You better let somebody love you (let somebody love you)...
You better let somebody love you before it's too late.

Link to the [Song](#)

Seminar on “Desperado” and Cyrano

1. What is the most striking image or phrase in the song?
2. What is the desperado’s primary personality flaw?
3. Who do you think the speaker is?
4. Is the speaker the desperado?
5. With whom do you identify more – the speaker or the desperado?
6. Is Cyrano a desperado?
7. Why is Cyrano such a charismatic character? In other words, why do people love him – both the characters in the play and we as readers/viewers?
8. Cyrano refuses to compromise – De Guiche admires him, Roxanne loves him – is he a hero or a fool?
9. Cyrano might have told Roxanne the truth had it not been for Christian’s death. Instead, he comforts the dying Christian with a lie, which Cyrano stays true to for fourteen years in order to honor the dead – is this action noble or ignoble – honorable or shameful? Does he waste his life and Roxanne’s in the process, or preserve everyone’s honor? Is it pure cowardice that keeps him from Roxanne, or something more noble?
10. Ultimately, do you admire Cyrano? Could you be like him? If so, in what ways? If not, why not?