

Area of Study 4: Popular Music

Candle in the Wind – Teacher Sheet

Words by Bernie Taupin / Music by Elton John

TEACHING POINTS:

Harmony (Primary & Secondary chords)

Melody (Shape & Pitch range)

Rhythm (Off-beat)

Sonority (Rock Instruments, Voices & Techniques)

Metre

Texture

Structure

Dynamics

Form & Structure (Riff)

Tonality

Musical Styles (Rock/Pop & Ballad)

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

In 1997, Elton John performed a rewritten version of the song as a tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales. This version was released as a single and reached No. 1 in many countries, proving a much greater success than the original.

As well as using alternative lyrics, the 1997 version contains a number of musical differences. Ask your pupils to compare both versions and consider the appropriateness of each one for the occasion for which they were originally intended.

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1) Which of the following musical devices does NOT occur in the introduction? (Underline one).

Triads Sequences Syncopation
(block chords) (restatement of an idea at a higher or lower pitch) (off-beat rhythms)

2) Which of the following instruments does NOT perform during Verse 1?

Bass Guitar Acoustic Guitar Electric Guitar

3) What is the time signature of this piece?

4/4 (four crotchet beats per bar) 12/8 (twelve quaver beats per bar)
3/4 (three crotchet beats per bar) 9/8 (nine quaver beats per bar)

4) During Chorus 1, how many backing vocalists accompany the lead vocalist?

2 3 4

5) In between Chorus 1 and Verse 2 there is an instrumental link during which an electric guitar plays a short riff (a short repeating phrase used in Jazz and Popular Music). How does the riff end each time?

With its lowest pitch With its median pitch With its highest pitch

6) During Verse 2, most of the words are set syllabically (each syllable of text is matched to a single note). However, there are occurrences where words are set melismatically (a single syllable moves between different notes). Identify a word that is set melismatically.

played / price / paid / you / nude

7) The backing vocalists accompany the lead vocalist using both text and vocalisations (Ah, Oh etc.) When, during the first two lines of Chorus 2, do they use the text?

At the beginning of each line During the middle of each line At the end of each line

8) Which statement best describes the general dynamic of Verse 3?

Piano (Quiet) Mezzo forte (Moderately Loud) Forte (Loud)

9) And which statement best describes the musical texture of Verse 3?

It is at its thickest It is the same as the previous verses It is at its thinnest

10) For the most part, each Chorus is harmonised using only the Primary Chords (I, IV and V), all of which are major. However, there is one occurrence of a Secondary Chord (vi), which is minor. Which words of the text are harmonised with this minor chord?

just a kid, Your candle burned out

11) During the Outro, how is the final statement of the electric guitar riff different from all the earlier occurrences?

It is performed in dialogue with another instrument It is harmonised

12) Identify the tonality of this piece.

Minor Major