

About Rap

Rap has roots in music from Africa. Storytellers in Africa told stories rhythmically with drumming. Rapping was found in Blues music as early as the 1920s. Listen to the 1950's Sun Studio recording of "Gotta Let You Go" by Joe Hill Louis.

Rap became a genre in the 1970s started by DJ Kool Herc who used two turntables to create loops. Rap uses rhyme, rhythmic speech, performed over a beat. In the 1980s, DJ Grand Wizard Theodore accidentally invented the act of scratching and the "needle drop." Today rap / hip hop is a mainstream music genre

Rap and poetry use many of the same literary devices.

- perfect rhyme: "I start to think and then I sink into the paper like I was ink," - Rakim
Perfect rhyme is not used in rap as often as assonance or other forms of rhyme.
- assonance: repetition of vowel sounds in nearby words
"My rhymes acid and yours asinine." -Cassidy
- multisyllable rhyme: I've got a bad taste / It gives me mad haste.
- internal rhyme - His palms are sweaty, knees weak, arms are heavy. There's vomit on his sweater already, mom's spaghetti. (Eminem)
- alliteration: the repetition of consonant sounds in neighboring words or syllables
"Determination, demonstratin', divine dedication: - Papoose
I'm trying to live it to the limit and love it a lot - from Jay-Z's "D'Evils"
- simile: compares two different things using like or as in an interesting way "See, I drop the greats like clumsy waiters drop plates." Mr. Man

rap consists of content (what is said), flow (rhythm and how it rhymes) and delivery (tone and speed that it's spoken)

Many rap artists write lyrics that are not age appropriate for elementary school use. Listen to: Free From it All by Lecraai with Mathai - [Link to YouTube](#)

What kind of rhyme or literary devices do you hear in the performance?

Name: _____ Class: _____

Composition Worksheet - Write a Rap

Option 1 Directions: Choose a topic and the rap accompaniment track that you like the best and write your own rap. You can use one of the starter ideas given, or you can invent your own. Use at least one of the literary devices from the "About Rap" information in your rap.

Don't do drugs... Stay at home...	Stay in school... Skateboarding...	Basketball is... Homework is...	Friends are... I don't want to...
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Option 2 Directions: Choose a fairy tale and write the story as a rap. You can choose a fairy tale from the list below, or choose another story that you know. Use at least one of the literary devices from the "About Rap" page in your rap.

The Three Little Pigs	Three Billy Goats Gruff	Chicken Little	Jack and the Beanstalk
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