

Parker **Figurative Language in Song Lyrics Lit Pkt.**

**Firework: Katy Perry**

**Onomatopoeia**

The First example of figurative language in the song *Firework* is the use of onomatopoeia. The line of the song that uses onomatopoeia is “Boom, boom, boom...” This line is referring to the person as a “firework” and that is the sound fireworks make. The song doesn’t mean that the person is literally blowing up, it really is referring to the beauty and extravagance of a firework and how this person is like a firework as she can “explode” like one and “let her colors burst”. If one were to take the song literally however, this part of the song would take on a new meaning.

If the song *Firework* took on its literal meaning, it would be quite morbid. “Boom, boom, boom” would then be referring to the fact that someone was blowing up, which is not a very pleasant thought. It wouldn’t particularly be as bad considering that the person in the song was a firework, but then many would be inclined to ask why exactly Katy was talking to an explosive. If songs or lines of songs took on their real meaning, many of them would become very disturbing. If one were to physically “Hit the lights” or “Raise the roof”, parties would become more of death scenes. This is why most stick to the figurative meanings of song lyrics and titles.

**Alliteration**

An example of alliteration in the song *Firework* is actually the continuation of the line that displays onomatopoeia. This line is, “Boom, boom, boom, even brighter than the moon, moon, moon. It's always been inside of you, you, you, and now it's time to let it through-

oughough...” Alliteration is the repetition of first letters or words to make a point more clear. If someone were to use alliteration with the repetition of words in a normal conversation, they would sound very strange and people might think they were crazy. This is why alliteration is called “figurative language”.

In literature, the repetition of words in a sentence is very normal and is only used to make a point clearer. Obviously the person didn’t have a firework inside of them that was brighter than the moon (which is actually not bright at all. It’s the sun’s light). The songwriter was only trying to make a point that the person was special and repeated words to do so. Though common, alliteration is only one of many types of figurative language used in songs, including this song in particular. In the next few paragraphs, more types of figurative language will be discussed.

### **Idiom**

An example of an Idiom in the song *Firework* is the part of the song that says, “Cause there’s a spark in you”. The song doesn’t really say that there is a spark inside of someone, it simply means that someone had something special about them. If someone had a “spark” inside of them, they might draw peoples’ attention and make an impact on those people. Sparks are very interesting. Just one spark can start a whole forest burning into flames in just seconds. This is similar to how someone, much like a spark, can change the world.

If the song suggested that someone literally had a spark in them, that person would most likely catch on fire. This depends on where the spark is though. Actually, every human being does have sparks inside of them. Every time someone gets a new idea, a spark jumps inside of

their brain. So in reality, if someone has a spark inside of them, they have an idea. Otherwise, the song would be very depressing and unpleasant.

## **Everything At Once**

### **Lenka**

#### **Simile**

The song *Everything At Once* by Lenka is the ultimate example of similes in a song. Almost every line has at least two similes in it. Some examples of similes in the song are, “As sly as a fox, as strong as an ox, as fast as a hare, as brave as a bear, as free as a bird, as neat as a word”, and so on. This song implies that the girl in the song wants to have all of the distinct qualities of certain animals and things. She wants to have these qualities because each has helpful advantages. She uses similes to describe what she wants to be because she describes things that are excellent in these areas.

Literally, one might consider these words very differently. They might think the singer wanted to be a bear or a hare or a fox. This is not what she meant at all. She wants to have the qualities of these things to be even better. After becoming all of these things, it would most likely have just been best to say human. Though, it may be creative and fun if the song took on its literal meaning, overall, it is better in its figurative form.

#### **Hyperbole**

The song *Everything At Once* also displays hyperbole in the two lines that are not similes. The singer says “All I want to be is everything at once”. The author means that she wants to have many different qualities at once. She says that she wants to be as sly as a fox and

as free as a bird, which means not that she wants to be a bird or a fox, but that she wants to be like one. This is what Lenka means by “Everything at once.” If she literally wanted to be everything at once, people would think she was crazy.

If the singer meant that she actually wanted to be everything at once, people might think she was crazy. This is why the sentence, “All I want to be is everything at once” is hyperbole. A hyperbole is an exaggeration. If she wasn’t exaggerating, people would probably think she was either extremely spoiled or extremely insane. Hyperbole as well as many other types of figurative language really help people to explain their thoughts. This is why it is displayed so frequently in literature and in everyday life.

## Everything At Once

Lenka

As sly as a fox, as strong as an ox  
As fast as a hare, as brave as a bear  
As free as a bird, as neat as a word  
As quite as a mouse, as big as a house  
All I wanna be, all I wanna be, oh  
All I wanna be is everything  
As mean as a wolf, as sharp as a tooth  
As deep as a bite, as dark as the night  
As sweet as a song, as right as a wrong  
As long as a road, as ugly as a toad  
As pretty as a picture hanging from a fixture  
Strong like a family, strong as I wanna be  
Bright as day, as light as play  
As hard as nails, as grand as a whale  
All I wanna be, all I wanna be, oh  
All I wanna be is everything  
As warm as the, the sun, as silly as fun  
As cool as a tree, as scary as the sea  
As hot as fire, cold as ice  
Sweet as sugar and everything nice  
As old as time, as straight as a line  
As royal as a queen, as buzzed as a bee  
Stealth as a tiger, smooth as a glide  
Pure as a melody, pure as I wanna be  
All I wanna be, all I wanna be, oh  
All I wanna be is everything at once

## Firework

By Katy Perry

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag  
Drifting through the wind  
Wanting to start again  
Do you ever feel so paper thin  
Like a house of cards  
One blow from caving in  
Do you ever feel already buried deep  
Six feet under screams  
But no one seems to hear a thing  
Do you know that there's still a chance for you  
'Cause there's a spark in you  
You just gotta ignite the light  
And let it shine  
Just own the night  
Like the fourth of July  
'Cause baby you're a firework  
Come and show 'em what you're worth  
Make 'em go "oh, oh, oh!"  
As you shoot across the sky-y-y  
Baby you're a firework  
Come and let your colors burst  
Make 'em go "oh, oh, oh!"  
You're gonna leave 'em falling down down down  
You don't have to feel like a waste of space  
You're original, cannot be replaced  
If you only knew what the future holds  
After a hurricane comes a rainbow  
Maybe a reason why all the doors are closed  
So you could open one that leads you to the perfect road  
Like a lightning bolt, your heart will glow  
And when it's time, you'll know  
You just gotta ignite the light  
And let it shine  
Just own the night  
Like the fourth of July  
'Cause baby you're a firework  
Come and show 'em what you're worth  
Make 'em go "oh, oh, oh!"  
As you shoot across the sky-y-y

Baby you're a firework  
Come and let your colors burst  
Make 'em go "oh, oh, oh!"  
You're gonna leave 'em all in awe-awe-awe  
Boom, boom, boom  
Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon  
And it's always been inside of you you you  
And now it's time to let it through  
'Cause baby you're a firework  
Come and show 'em what you're worth  
Make 'em go "oh, oh, oh!"  
As you shoot across the sky-y-y  
Baby you're a firework  
Come and let your colors burst  
Make 'em go "oh, oh, oh!"  
You're gonna leave 'em all in awe awe awe

<b>Figurative Language</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Song Title and Author</b>	<b>Examples Form Lyrics</b>
Simile	A comparison of objects using 'like' or 'as'	"Everything At Once" Lenka	"As sly as a fox, as strong as an ox, as free as a bird as neat as a word..."
Personification	Giving an object humanistic qualities.	"Thriller" Michael Jackson	"You start to freeze as terror looks you right between the eyes".
Idiom	A figure of speech commonly used in a language (slang).	"Hit The Lights" Selena Gomez	"Hit the lights, let the music make you lose control tonight".
Onomatopoeia	Words describing sounds.	"Firework" Katy Perry	"Boom, boom, boom, even brighter than the moon, moon, moon".
Metaphor	Relating two unlike things.	"Naturally" Selena Gomez	"You are the thunder and I am the lightning".