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The Rose

Theory: Critical thinking Theory (especially based on Bloom's taxonomy – 6 steps)

Time: 1:30 hours

Level: Intermediate and above

Activity Type: individual, pairs and group work, discussion, critical thinking, speaking, reading, writing and listening, creative thinking and fill in the gaps

Preparation: Copy the handouts. You will also need a copy of the song "The Rose"

Language: metaphors, similes, narrative writing, words that express emotion and feeling, adjectives, present and past tense

Procedure

1. First, write the question "What is love?" on the board. This will be a good ice-breaker, especially if you teach teenagers or high school students. Give them a chance to share their ideas and get some feedback from the students.
2. Write some problematic words from the story and song on the board such as razor, bitter, scar, reciting, bewilder, sentiment, dull and hymn. Ask the students to find the meanings of the words in a dictionary. If you have time, or your class size is small, it is a good idea to ask students to use the words in a sentence.
3. Now, give out the handouts and ask the students to work on the reading activity. When they have finished, ask them to check their answers with their classmates. Then, go through the answers together as a class.
4. Inform the students that they will hear a song based on the text they have just read. For preparation, you can download or play the song on YouTube. Since it is a famous song, other artists have covered the song. Among them, West life (male version) and Bianca Ryan (female version). After you have played the song a second time, ask the students to compare their answers and check for differences. Then, give the answers. (lyrics are below)
5. Tell the students to answer the questions and then discuss in small groups. While the students are discussing, encourage them to give reasons for their opinions and answers. Bring the class together, have a class feedback session and ask some follow-up questions.
6. If you have time or want to extend the activity, give out some paper and ask them to write some metaphors and similes of love as a group, based on question 8.

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Song - Answer Key

Some say love, it is a river

That drowns the tender reed

Some say love, it is a razor

That leaves your soul to bleed

Some say love, it is a hunger

An endless aching need

I say love, it is a flower

And you, it's only seed

It's the heart, afraid of breaking

That never learns to dance

It's the dream, afraid of waking

That never takes the chance

It's the one who won't be taken

Who cannot seem to give

And the soul, afraid of dying

That never learns to live

When the night has been too lonely

And the road has been too long

And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong

Just remember in the winter

Far beneath the bitter snow

Lies the seed

That with the sun's love, in the spring

Becomes the rose

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How "THE ROSE" came to be by Amanda McBroom

People often ask me what inspired me to write "The Rose". Here is the story:

I was driving down the freeway one afternoon, sometime in 1977-something.

I was listening to the radio. A song came on. It was "Magdalena" by Danny O'Keefe, sung by Leo Sayer. I liked it immediately. My favourite line was "Your love is like a razor. My heart is just a scar." I thought, "Ooh, I love that lyric."

As I continued to drive the thought came, I don't agree with the sentiment. I don't think love is like a razor. (I was younger then.) What, then, do I think love is? Suddenly, it was as if someone had opened a window in the top of my head. Words came pouring in. I had to keep reciting them to myself as I drove faster and faster towards home, so I wouldn't forget them. I screeched into my driveway, ran into the house, past various bewildered dogs and cats and my husband, and sat down at the piano. Ten minutes later, The Rose was there.

I called my husband, George, into the room and played it for him, as I always did with my new songs. He listened, and quietly said to me, "You've just written a standard." I protested that no one but my pals would ever hear it. (This is long before I had ever recorded anything.) He said, "Mark my words, something is going to happen with this song."

A year or so later, a professional song - writer friend of mine said, "Listen. There is this movie coming out called "The Rose". They are looking for a title tune. Do you want me to submit this to them?" I had never really tried to submit this song to anyone. I didn't consider myself a songwriter at the time. So I said, "Sure."

She submitted the tune to the producers, who hated it. They thought it was dull and a hymn and not rock and roll and totally wrong. They put it in the reject box. But the divine Paul Rothchild, who was the music supervisor on the film, and had been Janis Joplin's producer, hauled it out and asked them to reconsider. They again said no. So he mailed it to Bette Midler. She liked it, and that's how it got into the film and changed my life forever.

I have never written another song as quickly. I like to think I was the window that happened to be open when those thoughts needed to come through. I am eternally grateful ...to Bette Midler ...to Paul Rothchild ...to Bill Kerby, who wrote the screenplay ...to my friend who first submitted it for me ...and to the Universe for speaking to me in the first place and for showing me what I truly believe.

Originally, the film was to be called "The Pearl," which was Janis Joplin's nickname. But her family refused permission to use that name. Lucky for me. "Pearl" is much harder to rhyme than "Rose."

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Answer the questions

1. What inspired her to write a song? _____

2. Did she agree with Danny O'Keefe's romanticism? _____

3. Is it true that someone came and opened her car window suddenly while she's driving?

4. Where was she and what was she doing when she got the lyrics of the song? _____

5. How long did it take to compose the song? _____

6. What was her husband's prediction for her song? _____

7. Who chose her song to be used in a film? _____

Listen to the song "The Rose" and fill in the gaps

Some say love, it is a river	That never learns to _____(8)
That drowns the tender _____(1)	That never takes the chance
Some say love, it is a razor	It's the one who won't be taken
That leaves your soul to _____(2)	
Some say love, it is a hunger	When the _____(9) has been too
An endless _____(3) need	lonely
I say love, it is a flower	And the road has been too long
And you, it's only _____(4)	And you think that love is only
	For the lucky and the _____(10)
It's the heart, afraid of _____(5)	Just remember in the _____(11)
That never learns to dance	Far _____(12) the bitter snow
It's the dream, afraid of _____(6)	Lies the seed
And the soul, afraid of dying	That with the sun's _____(13), in the
Who cannot seem to _____(7)	spring _____(14) the rose.

(Lyrics and Song Music by Amanda Mc Broom)

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Answer the questions and then discuss in groups

8. What are some similes of love in the song? Do you agree? Why / Why not?

9. Is it true that love can hurt one's life? Give reasons for your answer. _____

10. What is the song writer's concept of life? _____

11. Did the song mention that love was only for people who were lucky and strong?

12. What metaphors did she use to describe her perception of love? Do you agree? Why / Why not?

13. Write your own metaphors and similes of love and share them with your friends and then the whole class.

