Gym Class Heroes/Robert Burns – Compare and Contrast

To receive credit, you must answer in complete, thoughtful sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Both artists use a combination of simile and metaphor in their lines. The first line of “Stereo Hearts” is a metaphor. Find and write down a simile from the lyrics. The first line of “A Red, Red Rose” is a simile. Find and write down a metaphor from the poem.

2. Both artists use exaggeration to emphasize the intensity of their love. Cite an example of this from each piece.

3. Closely examine the rhyme scheme of each piece and explain any patterns you find. What’s interesting about the writers’ rhyme scheme choices?

4. Which two lines from the Burns poem most closely echo the theme of the Gym Class Heroes song?

5. In the final stanza of the Burns poem, we discover that the lovers are soon to be parted. What effect, if any, do you suppose this impending separation is having on the couple’s love? What do you think might be causing the separation?

6. Some scholars argue that popular song lyrics do not technically qualify as poetry. Write a short passage in which you defend “Stereo Hearts” as a piece of poetry. Be sure to include an examination of at least three poetic techniques as you present your case.

7. Would it be better to have a love that’s like a red rose or a stereo? Explain the differences and defend your choice.

8. Ultimately, which of these two pieces of writing do you find more effective in communicating the narrator’s thoughts to the audience? Explain why you prefer one work over the other.
The Script/Edmund Spenser – Compare and Contrast

To receive credit, you must answer in complete, thoughtful sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. A paradox exists when a seemingly contradictory statement is given that, upon closer examination, reveals a compelling truth. Look over the lyrics from The Script’s song “Breakeven” and write a line that includes a paradox. Then, in your own words, summarize the paradox being discussed throughout the Edmund Spenser poem.

2. Most of the rhymes in The Script’s song are slant, meaning that the rhymes produce a similar sound but aren’t perfect rhymes. First, write two pairs of slant rhymes from the “Breakeven” lyrics. Then, explain how this usage of slant rhyme is especially appropriate, given the theme of the song.

3. Find and write down a metaphor from “Breakeven.” Then, find and write down a simile from “Sonnet 30.”

4. Look closely at the first line of “Sonnet 30.” Does “Love” in the line refer to the narrator’s feelings or to a woman? How do you know this?

5. Spenser effectively uses exaggeration to make his point. Find and write down the line from “Sonnet 30” that effectively uses the technique of exaggeration.

6. Write down the rhyme scheme of “Sonnet 30,” and explain how it differs from the rhyme scheme in “Breakeven.” Which structure do you prefer? Why?

7. The words “miraculous” and “wonderful” usually have a positive connotation for the modern reader; however, the poet uses these two words for a different purpose in “Sonnet 30.” Look closely at the lines where these two words appear and explain the poet’s message. (Hint: The last two lines of the sonnet also touch on this message.)

8. Ultimately, which of these two pieces of writing do you find more effective in communicating the narrator’s thoughts to the audience? Explain why you prefer one work over the other.

9. These two pieces were written more than 400 years apart, yet focus on the same theme. What does this show us about human nature?