

# POP & POETRY TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

## Learning Objectives:

- I can compare two texts within the same genre.

## Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS)

| Grade                                          | TEKS                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade                        | 6(B) write responses that demonstrate understanding of texts, including comparing sources within and across genres |
| English I, English II, English III, English IV | 5(B) write responses that demonstrate understanding of texts, including comparing sources within and across genres |

## Instructions:

This activity allows students to compare two pieces of poetry — “Nothing Gold Can Stay” by Robert Frost and “As It Was” by Harry Styles — with similar themes using Depth & Complexity icons.

**NOTE:** *You will want to preview the lyrics to “As It Was.” While there are no expletives, and I think it can lead to some great discussion with students, make sure it’s suitable for you and your class.*

1. Provide students with the handout. Give them time to annotate both texts independently.
2. Allow small group or whole class discussion of the two texts to help students compare what they found in the texts with others and deepen their understanding.
3. Have students answer the Details and Big Ideas questions on the back of the handout--you could work as a whole class, small groups, or individually.
4. Discuss the conclusions they came to about the two texts.



**EXTENSION OPPORTUNITY:** Have students choose a third text that they feel also connects with these two in some way (might I recommend *The Outsiders* if they’re familiar). Have them create a triple Venn diagram, or other graphic organizer of their choosing, to compare the **rules** of all three texts. (Rules could mean the genre rules the pieces follow, laws of nature, social hierarchies present, etc. — encourage your students to think boldly about their interpretation of what constitutes “rules.”)

# POP & POETRY

**This poem and this song were published almost 100 years apart from each other, yet they share some similar ideas. Follow the steps below to analyze these two pieces and see what conclusions you can come to about them.**

Read each piece and annotate it. While annotating, look out for some specific things:

- Imagery
- References to nature
- Things related to change
- Things related to time

Answer the questions on the back to compare and contrast the two pieces.

## ***"NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY" BY ROBERT FROST (1923)***

Nature's first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay.



"Eden" refers to the Garden of Eden. In the Old Testament Book of Genesis, it was a biblical earthly paradise inhabited by the first created man and woman, Adam and Eve, prior to their expulsion for disobeying the commandments of God.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Garden of Eden". Encyclopedia Britannica, 28 Apr. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Garden-of-Eden>. Accessed 17 August 2022.

## ***"AS IT WAS" BY HARRY STYLES (2022)***

Holdin' me back  
Gravity's holdin' me back  
I want you to hold out the palm of your hand  
Why don't we leave it at that?  
Nothin' to say  
When everything gets in the way  
Seems you cannot be replaced  
And I'm the one who will stay, oh

In this world, it's just us  
You know it's not the same as it was  
In this world, it's just us  
You know it's not the same as it was  
As it was, as it was  
You know it's not the same

Answer the phone  
"Harry, you're no good alone  
Why are you sittin' at home on the floor?  
What kind of pills are you on?"  
Ringin' the bell  
And nobody's comin' to help  
Your daddy lives by himself  
He just wants to know that you're well, oh

In this world, it's just us  
You know it's not the same as it was  
In this world, it's just us  
You know it's not the same as it was  
As it was, as it was  
You know it's not the same

Go home, get ahead, light-speed internet  
I don't wanna talk about the way that it was  
Leave America, two kids follow her  
I don't wanna talk about who's doin' it first

As it was  
You know it's not the same as it was  
As it was, as it was

# POP & POETRY ANALYSIS

Answer the questions below to compare and contrast the two texts you are analyzing.



## DETAILS

Compare the imagery of each poem. What similarities do you see?

Contrast the diction of each poem. How is the word choice of these two writers different? How does that affect each piece?



## BIG IDEA

What is a theme that both of the pieces have? *Remember, theme is universal a lesson the text conveys, and it should be written in a complete sentence.*

What is a theme that “Nothing Gold Can Stay” conveys, but “As It Was” does not?

What is a theme that “As It Was” conveys, but “Nothing Gold Can Stay” does not?