Apprentice Level  Analysis of a Song 1000 words 15%

Ok Apprentices, in our search for the Ring, the Cup, the One, the Meaning of the indecipherable stories in the literature book, we need some tools. We need to explicate, annotate, analyze, and synthesize information. We need to develop a hypothesis (we literary sleuths call it a thesis) and then map out a plan (we call it an outline) to reach the ultimate boon or the elixir (Knowledge and a grade.)

To develop these literary muscles, we are going to start from your home turf. We are going to dig into your own treasure chest (which you call the IPod.) Your call is to choose one of your own songs and explore its hidden meanings. You are going to look deep, deep into the lyrics for hidden messages. You are going to explore the biography of the band and what was happening in the genre, country, etc. when the song was written. Sounds fun? Easy? Beware the road of trials, tests, and dragons that wait for you. And look for the helpers along the way.

Battle Princess Sarah will guide you along the first part of the journey by showing you how to negotiate the treacherous path. We will do a song or two in class before she sends you off on your journey. You have two important maps - the handout “Explicating and Analyzing a Song” and the sample essays on the course website to help you along the way.

Choosing Your Song – Crossing the First Threshold
Do you have a song that you really love, but you have no idea what it means? For example, what does “Bohemian Rhapsody” really MEAN? Or Green Day’s “Boulevard of Broken Dreams”? Your job is to find a song that REQUIRES explication. (Beware of songs that mean exactly what they say. “I love you, love you, love you” doesn’t really require much explicating, and it will turn into the longest 1000 words you have every tried to write.) Choosing the right song is crucial to your success. Here is the KEY: If the song means exactly what it says, why write a 1000 word essay restating the already obvious meaning? Your call is to find a song that we cannot understand without further inquiry.

Thesis and Outline – Belly of the Whale
You must have a thesis that makes an assertion (opinion) about the meaning of the song. We will cover thesis sentences in class, but you should also check out this site called “Writing about Literature.” http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/printable/618/

The following are required:

1. Thesis Statement and MLA Outline Approved by Instructor (100 pts.)
2. First Draft Workshop w/2 peer evaluations (100 pts.)
3. In-text citations example: The RollingStone.com article “The Kinks are Back!” states that this cd is “

Analysis of Song Essay Master of Two Worlds & Freedom to Live (15% grade)
Place the Final Draft on the Top, and staple the following to the back

- Final draft on top
- Printed copy of lyrics
- Research
- Peer Reviews
- Approved thesis and outline

And yes, I will take off points if you do not follow the directions.