

## Literature and Personal, Social Development

Target Class: Sixth Form



### **A description of your lesson:**

(Proposed dictation.)

**‘Love has inspired art for millennia.** It has long provided the fodder for novels, poetry and music. But historically hip hop, perhaps more than any other genre, has never had much time for love. However, when it comes to depictions of love making, hip hop considers itself something of an authority. Don’t worry, I’m not about to give you a lesson on sex education, the intention of this lesson is instead to examine some of the parallels between love and sexual relationships in classical Roman poetry and contemporary rap music. Then hopefully, you will understand that the anxieties that everyone suffers on issues surrounding love, sex, and relationships has existed for thousands of years.’

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**Information about the texts.** Wiki, Patrick Morales, is a rapper from New York City, New York. He is the son of an Irish mother and Puerto Rican father, and was raised primarily in Manhattan.

Ovid is a poet from ancient Rome, circa 43 BC - 17 AD. He wrote poems in the form of epics, such as ‘Metamorphoses,’ but also wrote extensively about love. He wrote three poems entitled; ‘Amores’ (The Loves), ‘Ars Amatoria’ (The Art of Love), and ‘Remedia Amoris’ (The Cure for Love).

Wiki's 'Pandora's Box' is a lament for his former girlfriend Destiny Frasqueri, who is also a rapper but from Harlem, who performs under the name Princess Nokia.

The extract taken from Ovid's Amores, is a scene in which Ovid, the narrator, has gone to watch the chariot races. He sits next to a girl, and his head, starts to give her advice about sex and love, mentally implanting on to her anxieties that have stayed with him from previous relationships. In this instance, he's telling her it is ok to move on from former lovers.

### **A list of aims or learning objectives of the lesson:**

The broader aim of this lesson plan is to use literature to help students with their own anxieties surrounding sex, love and relationships.

It should also, develop close-reading skills, and improve ones understanding of how context can impact art.

Also, to understand that art is a reflection of life, it is and has always been a mirror, this lesson aims to show how that has been the case for thousands of years.

### **A list of questions and/or tasks for the pupils:**

**In this lesson students** will be asked to compare and contrast Wiki's 'Pandora's Box' with an extract from Ovid's 'Amores' by looking at language, form and context. This exercise will take place as a class discussion.

Beyond examining the two texts as a literary exercise, students should be asked to present ideas on how depictions of love and love making have changed over time. They should consider what contextual developments might have impacted these changes, developments such as the internet, social media and pornography. This exercise will take place in smaller groups, which they can share with the class if they so choose. No one one should be made to speak if they do not feel comfortable.

The last two verses from Wiki's 'Pandora's Box'

You was my teacher  
I was your creature  
Told me it's more than PR  
Told me I was Boricua  
We met doing a feature  
Fell in love in a week or so  
I don't know? man  
I guess i just reached ya  
I was a mutt  
Didn't know who I was  
You made me feel I belong  
Like I was one of ya  
Cause I was one of ya  
What the fuck am I saying?  
Just cause I don't know the language  
Man this shit's in my blood  
It's in my blood

And what's meant to be's  
Meant to be  
But it gets to me mentally  
I just feel you were sent for me  
Eventually? nah  
Not eventually I  
Gotta let it be  
Remember we do anything  
Told each other everything  
The stress was the death of me  
Tried to make it stop play my part  
Hear your thoughts  
But once you open up her lock  
Just like the pain of the world  
It's the pain of this girl  
I ate Pandora's Box.



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Extract from Ovid's 'Amores'

'There it should cause you shame neither to take off your tunic,  
nor press thigh tightly to thigh;  
there the tongue should bury itself in purple lips  
and desire find expression in a thousand ways;  
there neither sounds nor encouraging words should be lacking  
and the bedstead should be rocked by lusty movement.'