

Grade 9 Art & Culture Worksheet

Tombstone music

An epitaph is an inscription that could be written on a gravestone.



As you read these examples, work out what the overall tone of these brief poems is.

Here lies G. Whilliken's friends, all five.
He took them along when he learned to drive.

Here lieth the mother of children seven,
Four on earth and three in heaven –
The three in heaven preferring rather
To die with mother than live with father.

*Beneath this slab
John Brown is stowed.
He watched the ads
And not the road.*

Husband to his Wife on his Death

As I am now so you must be
Therefore prepare to follow me.
The Wife's Epitaph
To follow you I'm not content
How do I know which way you went?

*A Child of Seven Months
If I am so quickly done for,
What on earth was I begun for?*

When Frankenstein's monster finally died,
And his reign of terror ceased,
These were the words they inscribed on his grave:
May the Occupant rust in peace.

You should have noted that although the epitaph is written to put on a grave, these epitaphs are rather humorous! They often mock the person who has died.

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Part One: Your voices as musical instruments

In this task, you are going to work in groups to present these epitaphs using your voices as musical instruments.

Using ululation, vocalic lilting, crepitation and mouth drumming, create a mood and atmosphere and then work to a climax in each of these short pieces. You may repeat phrases in order to establish a rhythm effectively.

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Rubric to assess musical presentation

Criteria	Level 4 – Outstanding	Level 3 – Well achieved	Level 2 – Partially achieved	Level 1 – Not achieved
Learners able to work together in a group in a limited amount of time to produce a convincing musical presentation.				
Learners understood the content and tone of the epitaph and communicated it well.				
Learners used vocal effects listed in order to create an interesting and original presentation that built to a climax.				

[12 marks]

Part Two: Create your own epitaph

Create your own epitaph now. Think of an original occupation or hobby or personality trait that your group wants to focus on in the epitaph. Write your epitaph, then, using the same criteria as described for Part One, present your original epitaph to the class.

[12 marks]

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	12	See rubric in Appendix of Assessment Tools.
2	12	Use the same criteria.

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