Identifying and analyzing the poetic qualities of The Beatles’ lyrics from 1965-1970.

By Stephanie Murphy
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1965-1970

Pre-psychedelic:
Rubber Soul (1965)
Revolver (1966)

Psychedelic:
Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (1967)
The Beatles (White Album) (1968)
Magical Mystery Tour (1968)

Post Psychedelic:
Abbey Road (1969)
Let it Be (1970)
Songs by Lennon, McCartney, and Harrison

- Only analyze songs written by

- Not Ringo
  - Only two written about the same time
  - Not enough data to collect
  - Inability to show progress
Lennon vs. McCartney

vs. Harrison
- Society
  - “All You Need is Love,” “Come Together,” “Revolution,” “Blackbird”

- Characters
  - “Eleanor Rigby,” “Lovely Rita,” “Martha My Dear,” “Polythene Pam,” “Mean Mr. Mustard”

- Places
  - “Penny Lane,” “Strawberry Fields Forever,” Abbey Road

- Images
  - “I am the Walrus,” “A Day in the Life,” “Glass Onion”
Avoiding Misinterpretation

- I Am the Walrus
- Nurse in Penny Lane
- Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds
- Helter Skelter
- Covers of Sgt. Pepper and Abbey Road
Limitations
Why should the lyrics of Beatles songs from 1965-1970 be analysed as poetry?
Pre-psychedelic
Norwegian Wood (This Bird Has Flown)

I once had a girl, or should I say, she once had me.

She showed me her room, isn’t it good, Norwegian wood?

She asked me to stay and she told me to sit anywhere,

So I looked around and I noticed there wasn’t a chair.

I sat on a rug, biding my time, drinking her wine.

We talked until two and then she said, it’s time for bed.

She told me she worked in the morning and started to laugh.

I told her I didn’t and crawled off to sleep in the bath.

And when I awoke I was alone, this bird had flown.

So I lit a fire, isn’t it good, Norwegian wood.
Within You Without You

We were talking about the space between us all
And the people who hide themselves behind a wall of illusion
Never glimpse the truth
then it's far too late when they pass away.

We were talking about the love we could all share
when we find it to try our best to hold it there
with our love, with our love
we could save the world -- if they only knew.

Try to realize it's all within yourself
No one else can make you change
And to see you're really only very small,
And life flows on within you and without you.

We were talking about the love that's gone so cold
and the people, who gain the world and lose their soul
They don't know, they can't see
Are you one of them?

When you've seen beyond yourself
Then you may find peace of mind, is waiting there,
And the time will come when you see we're all one,
And life flows on within you and without you.
Post Psychedelic
“And in the end...

...the love you make...

...is equal to the love you take”

- “The End” (Lennon/McCartney), *Let it Be* (1970)