Name:

Haflin

Humanities

Date:

Iambic Pentameter in Songs

Background: Thus far, we’ve discussed Iambic Pentameter as it appears in Shakespeare’s sonnets and plays, modern hip hop, and in our own sentences. Let’s look at a couple of examples from other music and try to identify Iambic Pentameter so that way we can employ it in our own sonnet.

Instructions: Please read the following lyrics, then listen to the songs:

1. Before listening to each song, sound out the lyrics in your head. Place stressed and unstressed markings above each syllable. Is it in pentameter?
2. Listen to the song. Were you correct/incorrect? How does the music aid in understanding?

Song: “Let it Go”, James Bay. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GsPq9mzFNGY>

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| Lyrics/Scansion | Question Answers |
| From walking home and talking loads  To seeing shows in evening clothes with you  From nervous touch and getting drunk  To staying up and waking up with you  …  From throwing clothes across the floor  To teeth and claws and slamming doors at you  If this is all we’re living for  Why are we doing it, doing it doing it anymore? |  |

Song: “Shake it Off”, Taylor Swift

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| Lyrics/Scansion | Question Answers |
| I stay out too late, got nothing in my brain  That’s what people say, that’s what people say  I go on too many dates, but I can’t make them stay  At least that’s what people say, that’s what people say |  |

Song: “Georgia”, Vance Joy

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| Lyrics/Scansion | Question Answers |
| I never should have told you  I never should have let you see inside  Don’t want it troubl’ing in your mind  Won’t you let it be? |  |