

Rap & Poetry



What is rap?

Rap is a way of talking.

A rap poem:

- 1) Has a strong RHYTHM
- 2) Uses RHYME
- 3) Has a THEME which is either a story or a message.
- 4) Often has the word 'RAP' in the title.
- 5) Uses everyday, COLLOQUIAL language
- 6) Is often written in a DIALECT, such as a Caribbean dialect.

A brief history of RAP and RAP POETRY ...

RAP has a long history – one that can be traced back to ‘TOASTING’ in Jamaica (talking over reggae records) and before that to the poetry of ‘GRIOTS’ (musicians-storytellers) in Africa.

RAP, in its modern form comes from a type of music called HIP-HOP.

HIP-HOP is a Black American music that began in the early 1970's in the city of New York in America.



HIP-Hop has become the most popular type of music in America.



The best known AMERICAN RAPPERS today include LAURYN HILL and WILL SMITH.



RAP TODAY

Now RAP can be heard in many different types of music such as POP, ROCK and DANCE.

Throughout the 1980's and 1990's, POETS in both America and Britain began to write their own form of raps – RAP POEMS without music.

RAP POETRY is one of the most popular forms of POETRY for young people.

Some examples:

(don't worry if you don't understand the lyrics, just take the essence)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ygVmYJi4tk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzUozo1628U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVUukmqRr24>