

Lesson 3. Worksheet 6. Lyric Analysis “Paavonmant” (“Corn Stalk Girls”) (teacher version)

Carefully read the Hopi song “Paavonmant” (“Corn Stalk Girls”). Identify examples of the following in the lyrics and answer the questions below.

Lyrical Feature	Examples from “Corn Stalk Girls”
<p>Repetition: a technique used to provide emphasis through the repeated use of sounds, words, or phrases within a literary work.</p>	<p><i>Example:</i> “corn stalk girls...” <i>Suggested Answers:</i> Repetition of first two verses and last two lines, “now during” and “now among”</p>
<p>Rhythm and meter: in poetry, a series of stressed and unstressed syllables, (and patterns if they are present in this example.)</p>	<p><i>Example:</i> “corn stalk girls—begin to dance — corn stalk girls—entertain you” <i>Suggested Answers:</i> Repetition and variation in the rhythm of the song</p>
<p>Imagery: images within a literary work, which serve either as figurative language or as descriptions to evoke the senses.</p>	<p><i>Example:</i> girls dancing among the corn or corn stalks dancing in the wind; fluttering of wings <i>Suggested Answers:</i> Visual motions convey movement like butterflies flying, corn tassels moving in the wind, insects flying around</p>
<p>Figurative language: language used to mean something <i>other than what is written</i>; something symbolic, suggested, or implied.</p>	<p><i>Example:</i> “insects have happily started to dance” <i>Suggested Answer:</i> Example of personification; it is a way of describing insect flight and activity as a joyous celebration through movement</p>

Language of Place: Hopi Place Names, Poetry, Traditional Dance and Song

Describe what is happening in this song:

Suggested answers: It is August, insects are “dancing”—flying around the fields. Girls dressed as “corn stalk girls” are dancing and imitating insects that fly around the corn fields. The insects are happy. The girls are dancing *for* someone: “corn stalk girls—entertain you.”

Where does the song take place? What is it like there?

Suggested answers: It is August and it is beautiful to see the dancing. Insects are happy; people are dancing to entertain each other. The atmosphere is celebratory, festive. There is a lot of dancing, fluttering going on. It is a happy place. There is a lot of motion.

What did the author care about when writing this song? What does this song tell us about the singer’s values?

Suggested answers: The author appreciates the dancers, the “corn stalk girls,” and describes them with appreciation for their beauty as they flutter “their wings.” The author/singer personifies the corn stalk girls as insects, ascribing to them the human emotion of happiness as they fly among the dancers and corn stalks.

How does “Corn Stalk Girls” relate to the images you saw of the Hopi “Butterfly Dance” and the costumes worn by dancers?

Suggested answers: The song and the dancers include images or descriptions of corn, wings of insects, etc. The insects and the corn stalk girls are dancing, just like the people in the actual celebratory dance. “Fluttering of wings” may describe some of the motions of the dancers. The idea of “entertainment” in the song could refer to the dancers as well as the audience, which is watching and supporting the dancers.