

Reverse-Soundtrack

[Finding Inspiration in Music]

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INTRODUCTION

In broad terms, a **soundtrack** is the recorded music that accompanies a movie, television show, or videogame. As music is capable of evoking strong emotions, soundtracks are almost always included in popular programming — even televised sporting events have theme songs. In fact, soundtracks are so highly regarded that many of their composers have become recognizable figures (John Williams, Danny Elfman, Jon Brion, Michael Giacchino, etc.).

THE REVERSE-SOUNDTRACK

However, music does not always have to be an *afterthought*, solely created to accompany another work. In fact, many writers are directly influenced by their favorite songs, albums, or playlists. While listening to their favorite tunes, writers may come up with plot elements, dialogue, themes, moods, or even characters that would have never been stumbled upon otherwise. For example, popular rock songs such as the Beatles' *Hey Jude* are present through Stephen King's epic *Dark Tower* series. Or, as another example, consider the fact that one of the most memorable scenes in *500 Days of Summer* is written around Hall & Oates' (amazing) song *You Make My Dreams Come True*.

ASSIGNMENT

You are going to write a bit of prose that has been inspired (in some way) by a particular song, album, or playlist. As intimated above, the musical inspiration can be embodied in a number of different ways:

- Perhaps the characters in your story have been given names related to the title(s)/artist(s)
- Maybe a musical passage (such as a guitar solo or drumbeat) has elicited images for a setting
- Mayhaps the dialogue has been culled from lyrics

However, make sure to observe the following **guidelines**:

- Your prose must be at least two (2) pages in length.
- **After** your story, please list the song, album, playlist and artist(s) used to stimulate ideas.
- Then, in at least one paragraph, describe how the music affected your writing.
- While not required, passing in a CD/playlist of your reverse-soundtrack will earn you (5) extra points.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	POINTS EARNED	POSSIBLE POINTS
GUIDELINES	You must follow the guidelines listed above, using the appropriate formatting.		15
EFFORT	The copy that you submit must be clean, neat and typed .		10
QUALITY	The quality of your work must be consistent with your level. You should write with focus, organization, and appropriate amount of detail.		15
<i>*EXTRA*</i> <i>*CREDIT*</i>	You can choose to submit a CD/playlist containing your reverse-soundtrack.		5
			40