













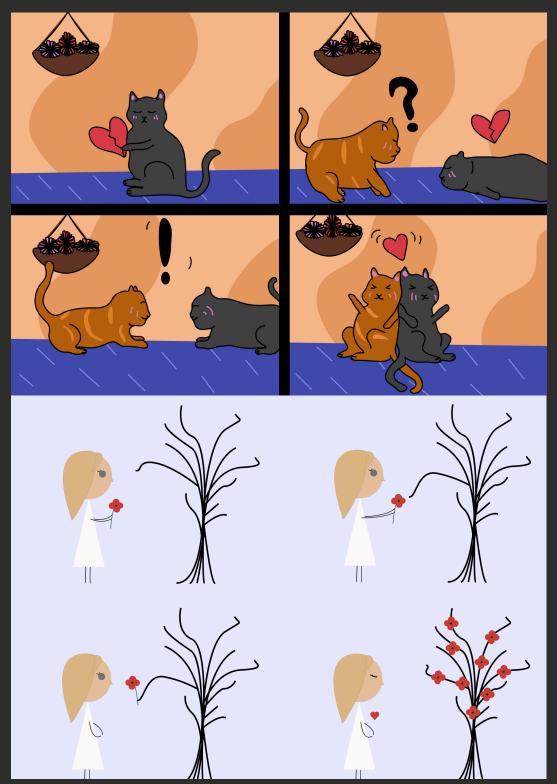
lucky you...











What is Love?

Love is... not feeling manipulated. Love is... not being afraid to be around them. Love is... not being made to feel stupid for asking genuine questions. questions.

Love is... not being laughed at for being yourself.

Love is... not feeling unwelcome for being yourself.

Love is... not being called manipulative for going through depression.

Love is... not being called childish for being yourself.

Love is... looking in their eyes and feeling your heart swell.

Love is... understanding that the words they say are genuine.

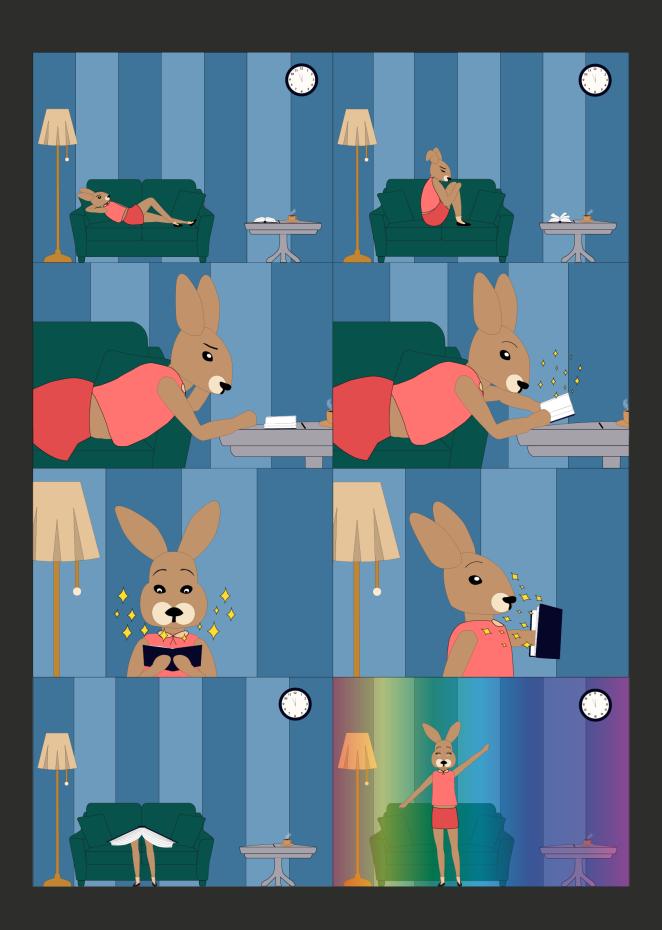
Love is... feeling the warmth of someone saying I love you.

Love is... knowing that they are and will always be there for you. you. Love is... not something that is forced.

LOVE happens naturally and is genuine.

- Martinique Shaw

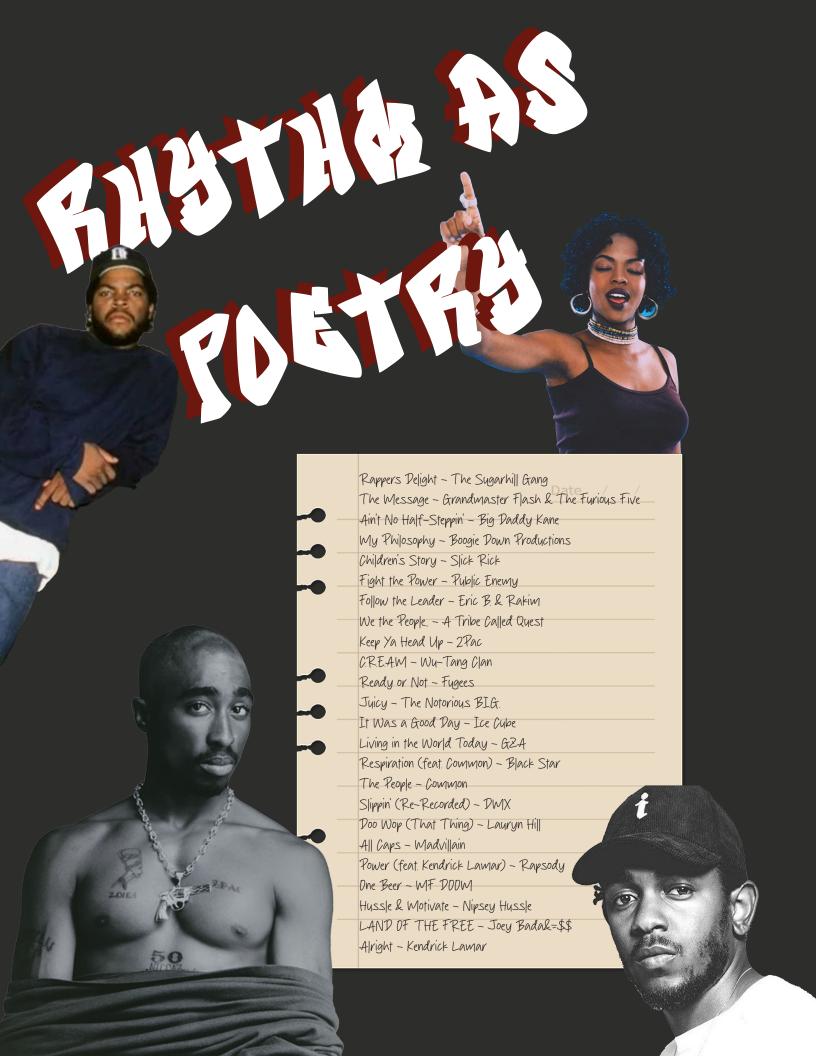












The Sugarhill Gang's release of Rappers Delight in 1979 is widely recognized as one of the earliest forms of rhythm as poetry or "Rap" as it's more commonly known.

Throughout the years, black culture has meticulously shaped rap into what it is today. Rap music is, and has always been, a vibrant expression of: resilience, culture, and identity within the Black community.

It is more than just music—it's a vehicle for storytelling, empowerment, and connection. From its roots, it blossomed into a gloal movement, offering a platform for those who had long been oppressed, silenced, or overlooked.

Through its rhythmic poetry, rap has given voice to the struggles, dreams, pain, and joy to those who choose to embrace it. It amplifies personal stories of survival and resistance, and turns them into anthems. Whether narrating the harsh realities of inner-city life, celebrating Black excellence, or challenging systemic injustice, rap serves as a tool for self-expression and a weapon for social change.

Rap music has been a beacon of hope and pride, creating spaces where Black voices are not only heard, but celebrated and honored. It's a cultural force that empowers, educates, and elevates future generations, ensuring that their stories are never forgotten.

At its best, rap music encapsulates the strength, creativity, and resistance of the black community.

Riley Frankian, Communication and Journalism,
 University of Maine, Orono



















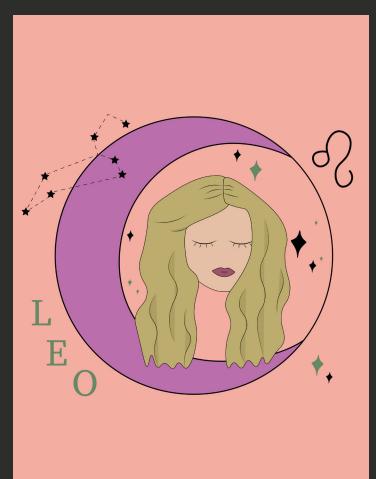


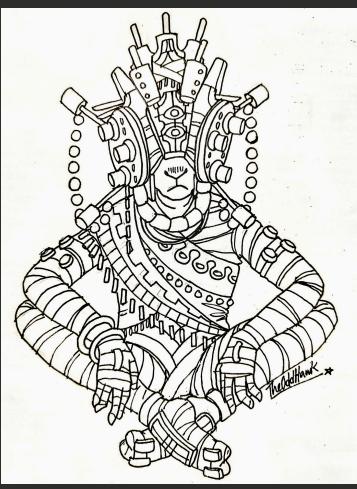


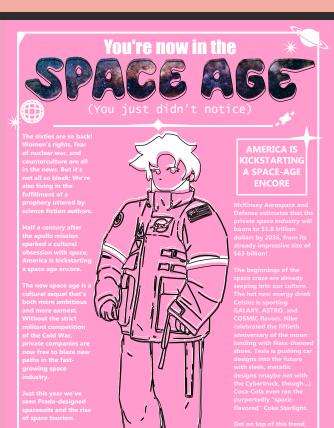
















pg. 7......Folk Tiles"-Seamless Pattern Design by Sophie Dube

pg. 12......Birthday"-Line Art Photography by Caroline Engel

pg. 15......"Joy"-Oil on Canvas by Heather Love, "Wrong School"-Painting by Hailie Kesterson, "Fancy Dinner"-Painting by Emma Rydman, "Beach Day"-Drawing by Tabitha Dean, "The Lake"-Painting by Joshua Pease, "Napa Valley Mustard Co."-Painting by Emma Rydman, "1958"-2D by Joshua Pease





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