

Option 1: Choose a work to discuss from one genre that interprets a work from another genre.

- Include the title, artist, and description of both works.
- Examine how the artist of the second work captured the subject or story of the first.
- Support your point(s) with a statement from the second artist that discusses the influence, reasoning, or interpretation of the original work on the second work.

What the Water Gave Me, 1938 by Frida Kahlo

Also known as “What I Saw in the Water”, the painting shows reflections in the water that are Frida’s images of life and death, happiness and sadness, comfort and pain, as well as her past and present. She once described the painting to her friend as, “An image of passing time, about time and childhood games in the bathtub and the sadness of what had happened to her in the course of life” (Fridakahlo.org, 2019).

What The Water Gave Me by Florence and The Machine 2011

The lead singer and song writer Florence Welch told NME Magazine that the song is titled after Frida Kahlo’s painting and was named after her painting inspiring her while writing the lyrics. She stated, “At lot of the time when I’m writing, things will just appear. I was writing the song and this book on symbolism was lying around, and it had the painting in it. It’s nice to mix the ordinary with extraordinary” (NME, 2011).

In the song, Florence sings about water becoming a deity that must be appeased. She stated in an interview that, "It's a song for the water, because in music and art what I'm really interested in are the things that are overwhelming. The ocean seems to me to be nature's great overwheeler. When I was writing this song, I was thinking a lot about all those people who've lost their lives in vain attempts to save their loved ones from drowning. It's about water in all forms and all bodies " (Corner, 2011). The song relates to Frida’s painting as in the painting it shows a disturbing scene of people drowning but also shows her terrible experiences in life surrounding the drowning. In the song, Florence references children being swept away out to sea and being completely overwhelmed by something that is bigger than everything.

Florence also referenced the death of the British novelist Virginia Woolf who had drowned herself by walking into a river with pockets full of stones.

Lay me down
Let the only sound
Be the overflow
Pockets full of stones