English

Sonnet 18

Songs and poems are pieces of media that are used both in history and now to entertain, educate and persuade. One of the most famous poems is Shakespeare’s Sonnet 18 also known as “Shall I compare thee to a Summer’s Day”. A famous song that is relatively modern is Never Gonna Give You Up by Rick Astley. Both have reached many people and this essay will compare features to conclude about which is more impactful.

Sonnet 18, written by William Shakespeare is a well-known sonnet written in 1609. The sonnet is about the immortalization of beauty in love and aging removing beauty from people. The language features in the poem can be split into two types, the auditorial features and the English features. These are expertly chosen and impact the reader in various ways. The language features in the sonnet include personifying metaphors, rhetorical questions and repetition. The metaphors in the poem are used to engage the reader and another level of detail to the poem. One of these extended metaphors is the sun described as “the eye of heaven shines” and then extended with talking about the sun’s complexion dimming. This mention of the sun is also linked to the two overall themes of the sonnet, relating to the seasons which are metaphors for life. With the knowledge that the seasons are metaphors for the stages of life the poem’s meaning changes a lot and generally make more sense.

Never Gonna Give You Up, by Rick Astley is a well-known song written in 1987. The song is about how the singer is committed to his lover and how he will not harm her. The song’s language features although smaller is, rhyme, alliteration, repetition and metaphor. The song uses repetition to great effect repeating the words “Never Gonna” a whole 37 times throughout the song. This makes the song memorable and catchy. The song contains rhymes such as Guy with I and Cry with Goodbye. There are loose metaphors in the song such as the line “We Know the Game and We’re Gonna Play It”, this directly compares love with a game. Alliteration appears with the words “Gonna” and “Give” with the repeating G sound. The songs’ purpose is to entertain become a popular song. Never Gonna Give You Up has achieved this with it being at the top of the UK and US music charts when it was released. I think this song is fantastic and one of the best to ever be written.

Although very different genres Never Gonna Give You Up and Sonnet 18 have numerous similarities. They both have similar language features and some underlying features both poems and songs share generally. Both the song and sonnet have rhyme, rhythm and tempo. These are things most songs and sonnets have. Literary features they share include repetition and metaphor. Rhyme in the song differs from sonnet 18. Sonnet 18 has a very strict rhyme structure of ABAB CDCD EFEF GG whereas Never Gonna Give You Up has a loose rhyme scheme of putting rhymes into the song where they fit and sound pleasing. Rhythm and tempo are used in both the song and sonnet like they are used in all songs and sonnets. Overall, I believe that Never Gonna Give Up is more impactful than sonnet 18. This is because Never Gonna Give You Up as a song, is more recognizable, its amazing use of repetition, its number one on the UK and US charts at the time of release and the various other language features which surpassed Sonnet 18.

In conclusion Sonnet 18 and Never Gonna Give You Up and Sonnet 18 are both very impactful pieces of media in history. They both have language features, both literary and auditory features.

Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?

Thou art more lovely and more temperate:

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,

And summer’s lease hath all too short a date;

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,

And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;

And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance or nature’s changing course untrimm'd;

But thy eternal summer shall not fade,

Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow’st;

Nor shall death brag thou wander’st in his shade,

When in eternal lines to time thou grow’st:

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,

So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

We're no strangers to love

You know the rules and so do I

A full commitment's what I'm thinking of

You wouldn't get this from any other guy

I just wanna tell you how I'm feeling

Gotta make you understand

Never gonna give you up

Never gonna let you down

Never gonna run around and desert you

Never gonna make you cry

Never gonna say goodbye

Never gonna tell a lie and hurt you

We've known each other for so long

Your heart's been aching but you're too shy to say it

Inside we both know what's been going on

We know the game and we're gonna play it

And if you ask me how I'm feeling

Don't tell me you're too blind to see

Never gonna give you up

Never gonna let you down

Never gonna run around and desert you

Never gonna make you cry

Never gonna say goodbye

Never gonna tell a lie and hurt you

Never gonna give you up

Never gonna let you down

Never gonna run around and desert you

Never gonna make you cry

Never gonna say goodbye

Never gonna tell a lie and hurt you

Never gonna give, never gonna give

(Give you up)

We've known each other for so long

Your heart's been aching but you're too shy to say it

Inside we both know what's been going on

We know the game and we're gonna play it

I just wanna tell you how I'm feeling

Gotta make you understand

Never gonna give you up

Never gonna let you down

Never gonna run around and desert you

Never gonna make you cry

Never gonna say goodbye

Never gonna tell a lie and hurt you

Never gonna give you up

Never gonna let you down

Never gonna run around and desert you

Never gonna make you cry

Never gonna say goodbye

Never gonna tell a lie and hurt you

Never gonna give you up

Never gonna let you down

Never gonna run around and desert you

Never gonna make you cry

Never gonna say goodbye