**English poetry assignment**

**Song Link -** https://youtu.be/Yrl1qEyqfcI

**Requiem – Dear Evan Hansen**

Why should I play this game of pretend?  
Remembering through a second-hand sorrow?  
Such a great son and wonderful friend  
Oh, don't the tears just pour

I could curl up and hide in my room  
There in my bed, still sobbing tomorrow  
I could give in to all of the gloom  
But tell me, tell me what for

Why should I have a heavy heart?  
Why should I start to break in pieces?  
Why should I go and fall apart for you?

Why should I play the grieving girl and lie  
Saying that I miss you  
And that my world has gone dark without your light?  
I will sing no requiem tonight

You were the flood that swallowed us whole

Refusing the love we endlessly gave you

You were a fire out of control

The flame that couldn’t be tamed

Why should I have a heavy heart?

Why should I say I'll keep you with me?  
Why should I go and fall apart for you?

Why should I play the grieving girl and lie  
Saying that I miss you and that my world has gone dark without your light?   
I will sing no requiem

Tonight

'Cause when the villains fall, the kingdoms never weep  
No one lights a candle to remember  
No, no one mourns at all  
When they lay them down to sleep

So, don't tell me that I didn't have it right  
Don't tell me that it wasn't black and white  
After all you put me through  
Don't say it wasn't true  
That you were not the monster  
That I knew

'Cause I cannot play the grieving girl and lie  
Saying that I miss you And that my world has gone dark

I will sing no requiem

I will sing no requiem

I will sing no requiem tonight

**Analysis**

1. **The Subject**

This song is about a girl who is trying to make peace with their son/brother having committed suicide. She says she won’t sing any requiem for him, and that she’s not sure why she should want to keep his memory alive when he was not the person everyone else thinks he is.

1. **Narrator**

This song’s narrator is a girl named Zoe Murphy. She is speaking to herself when singing this song; almost trying to convince herself of what she is singing. Zoe’s older brother committed suicide. She did not have a good relationship with him; he did drugs and was constantly mean to her. When he died, his “best friend,” Evan Hansen, steps in to say what a wonderful friend her brother was. The whole school starts to try and keep her brother’s legacy alive and to make sure people remember what a good person he was. Zoe is upset as this was not the person that she grew up with, and not the same person who killed himself just days earlier. She doesn’t want to lie and say she misses him and that it was tragic because she truly believes he was a terrible person.

1. **Diction (word choice)**

Requiem:

* (especially in the Roman Catholic Church) a Mass for the repose of the souls of the dead.
* a musical composition setting parts of a requiem Mass, or of a similar character.
* an act or token of remembrance.

Denotation/connotation – In this song, everything is quite literal. There are very few cases of connotation. One example would be “That you are not the monster/that I knew.” When she sings “the monster,” she is referring to her brother. This means that she saw her brother as horrible, evil, scary and mean. Another example is when she refers to him as a fire. He was wild, untameable and out of control, which is why she uses a fire to describe him. However, the rest of the song has a very literal meaning. She truly means that she doesn’t know why she should believe all these good things about her brother.

The words in this poem are very concrete. They state the meaning and you know what the author means when you read the words.

This poem does not contain any clichés.

1. **Tone**

The tone in this song is very serious, with a tone of frustration and sadness. The tone stays the same throughout the whole song.

Some examples of the tone:

1. After all you put me through  
   Don't say it wasn't true  
   That you were not the monster  
   That I knew
2. Why should I play the grieving girl and lie  
   Saying that I miss you and that my world has gone dark without your light?   
   I will sing no requiem
3. **Rhythmical devices**

Stanza – The basic length of a stanza is 4 lines, however the pre chorus is 3 lines and the bridge has 6. There is not one general metrical pattern in this song.

Rhyme Scheme – The rhyme scheme in this song is end rhyme. For most verses, the rhyme scheme is 1, 2, 1, 3. The chorus does not have a rhyme scheme. The bridge has 2 different rhyme schemes. The first stanza is 1, 2, 3, 1, and the second stanza is 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 2.

The form is open as it does not have a consistent structure throughout the whole song.

1. **Literary devices**

Sounds: Alliteration: heavy heart, grieving girl

Assonance: son and wonderful

Metaphors – there are quite a few metaphors in this song. Here are a few examples:

1. You were a fire out of control

The flame that couldn’t be tamed

1. You were the flood that swallowed us whole
2. you were not the monster
3. Cause when the villains fall, the kingdoms never weep

Euphemism – ‘When they lay them down to sleep’ replacing burying someone once they have died.

Hyperbole – “my world has gone dark without your light” as her world is not literally dark because he is gone.

Synecdoche/metonymy – there are no examples of synecdoche or metonymy in this poem.

The title – I believe that the title suits the song very well. The whole song is about the girl not singing any requiem for her brother, and how she doesn’t know why she should grieve for him. The title “requiem” captures that theme without spoiling what happens in the song.

1. **Values of the poem**

I believe that the author does a great job of getting their experience out through this song. When listening to the song or reading the lyrics, you can feel the intensity of the struggle Zoe is going through with the loss of her brother. It is very intense because of the serious matter, and you can feel the frustration and hurt through the narration.