



# Essential Words: LTAB Online 2020

## Lesson plans and writing prompts for teens



### GIOVANNI

by Bayan Founas

DURATION: 1.5 hours  
GRADE LEVEL: High School  
WRITING LEVEL: ALL  
FOCUS: literary devices

KEY TERMS: metaphor,  
simile, imagery  
EXAMPLE POEM: [Ego Tripping](#)  
by Nikki Giovanni

Check in | 15 minutes

If you can see anything in the world, at any moment of history, what would it be and why? This can be a physical thing or a place.

Resource Building | 15 minutes

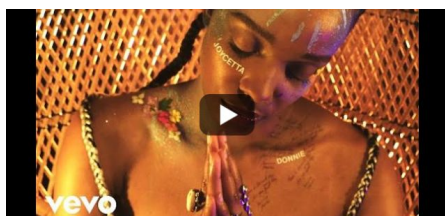
#### DISCUSSION

- How would a poem or song be different without these literary devices?
- How is a poem or song enhanced by these literary devices?

#### KEY TERMS

- **SIMILE:** a figure of speech that compares two unlike things using the words like or as.
- **METAPHOR:** a figure of speech used to compare two things that aren't alike but do have something in common.
- **IMAGERY** is descriptive language used to add depth to writing by appealing to the reader's human senses.

Close Reading | 20 minutes



READ | [Ego Tripping \(there may be a reason why\)](#) by [Nikki Giovanni](#)

WATCH | [Giovanni](#) by Jamila Woods (YouTube)

#### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How do metaphors, imagery, and similes shape the poem and your understanding of the poem?
- How do literary devices affect the video and your understanding of the video?



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Writing Prompt | 20 minutes

**Write a poem or song or create a video employing imagery that empowers you.**

Share Out | 15 minutes



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### Ego Tripping (there may be a reason why)

by Nikki Giovanni

I was born in the congo  
I walked to the fertile crescent and built  
the sphinx  
I designed a pyramid so tough that a star  
that only glows every one hundred years falls  
into the center giving divine perfect light  
I am bad

I sat on the throne  
drinking nectar with allah  
I got hot and sent an ice age to europe  
to cool my thirst  
My oldest daughter is nefertiti  
the tears from my birth pains  
created the Nile  
I am a beautiful woman

I gazed on the forest and burned  
out the sahara desert  
with a packet of goat's meat  
and a change of clothes  
I crossed it in two hours  
I am a gazelle so swift  
so swift you can't catch me

For a birthday present when he was three  
I gave my son hannibal an elephant  
He gave me rome for mother's day  
My strength flows ever on

My son noah built new/ark and  
I stood proudly at the helm  
as we sailed on a soft summer day  
I turned myself into myself and was  
jesus  
men intone my loving name  
All praises All praises  
I am the one who would save

I sowed diamonds in my back yard  
My bowels deliver uranium  
the filings from my fingernails are  
semi-precious jewels  
On a trip north  
I caught a cold and blew  
My nose giving oil to the arab world  
I am so hip even my errors are correct  
I sailed west to reach east and had to round off  
the earth as I went  
The hair from my head thinned and gold was  
laid  
across three continents

I am so perfect so divine so ethereal so surreal  
I cannot be comprehended  
except by my permission

I mean . . . I . . . can fly  
like a bird in the sky . . .

[Ego Tripping \(there may be a reason why\)](#)  
[by Nikki Giovanni, Academy of American Poets](#)