***Songwriting Techniques***

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***Analysing Key Songwriters***

***2Pac and Biggie Smalls:***

*Biggie and 2Pac had similar upbringings which really reflected in their music later on, Both were born in New York City, 2Pac was born and raised in Harlem, New York with his family where they had quite humble beginnings moving shelter to shelter until his teenage where he moved to California and shifted things around. Biggie on the other hand also born in New York City but in a different borough known as Brooklyn where he was raised by his single mom who worked as a pre school teacher. Influenced by his surroundings Biggie managed to remain true to his craft and later on became The King of The Brooklyn Streets.*

*Being the bad boys of the industry they didn’t have a dedicated writing process. Biggie was nothing but a natural when it came to rapping as he proved every time he stepped in the studio. He would just listen to the beat he was played and, as absurd as it sounds, He would just freestyle on it, One of his producer DJ Clark said that biggie heard the song before it was written. He would just know what to say, Pac on the other hand was quite similar but not exactly. Pac would listen to a beat and like Biggie he would know what he wanted to do with the song and he would start writing lyrics down on his notepad where he would later on perfect the song. Pac was also known for his ridiculous work ethic. Unlike other musicians working on one song at a time, Snoop Dogg said Pac would do 3 songs in the time space of an hour then take a break, He “relaxed” for a bit and got back in the studio working on a different song and so it went on.*

*The main difference between Biggie and Pacs “Harmony”, which in rap is called flow, was continuity.*

*When Biggie would listen to a song he would rap on it immediately just like free-styling and he would carry one syllable for as long as he wanted to.. Pac on the other hand would listen to the beat first then come up with the flow and lyrics and then go in the recording booth to record. A good example is 10 crack commandments by Biggie Smalls where he raps from start to finish without stoping and 2Pacs song Hail Marry is a good example where he lets the hook run a lot more then Biggie would, Pac followed the beat where Biggie rode the beat.*

*The structure to their songs was usually like a normal song with your hooks and verses and sometimes bridges as well but 2Pac used hooks a lot more Then Biggie. The famous song by 2Pac California love serves as a good example, In the song you can really hear the hook over and over again, Unlike Biggie where he only had hooks on songs that he sampled but Biggie was praised on his consistency and he really took advantage of his talent so it didn’t really matter if Biggie’s songs didn’t have hooks they were unforgettable anyways because of his raw street talent. Unlike Biggie, 2Pac accepted the fact that he’s a celebrity and he had a record label that believed that every song should have a catchy hook to be a hit which is usually true but that didn’t matter to Biggie as much.*

*Both of these incredible artists drew inspiration from their reality. Also known as the Kings of reality rap they were famous for having being extremely transparent about their lives and their humble beginnings. 2Pac was looked upon as a philosopher, Having such deep meaning to his lyrics would leave a person thinking about the things that really mattered, He always talked about peace and used his music to speak up against the wrong. Biggie also had a similar approach when it came to lyrics. Growing up the way that he did matured him at an early age and his wisdom came from everything he saw around him, Biggie didn’t do well in school but his vocabulary skills said other wise and he used that amazing skill in his lyrics. While 2pac was more political, Biggie gave out more of an activists vibe. At the end of the day their lyrics always had a huge impact on the listeners because they were speaking a lot of people’s truth.*

*To compare their legacy is extremely unfair on both the artist because both of them played an equally vital role in rap. There are countless artist that take inspiration from Biggie and 2pac till this day.They are known for ‘doing it better than anybody could’ and their work speaks for itself. Both of them spoke up about how the system had failed them and the difficulties they faced because of it. 2pac used his platform to raise a voice against the disgusting way the African Americans were treated and he inspired a lot of African American moments that demanded to be treated fairly. Biggie on the other hand wasn’t as political as Pac his legacy was based more of the fact that how good of a rapper he really is, Where he never really went on TV talking about black people’s rights, He never failed to deliver a meaningful massage to his listeners through his songs. Biggie’s legacy is more based of how real he was and so was Pac’s, Both individuals were highly respected for staying true to who they were and where they came from and how they influenced reality rap. Anybody you ask they’ve at least once heard either of their names. Being a Biggie fan myself I looked up to him a lot because he became successful for being his true self un apologetically and being a minority in a western country I believe it inspired a lot of young musicians to not let anything stop you from being who you truly are.*

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