

## GRP Topic: Nirvana

**Anaphora:** repetition of a word or phrase as the beginning of successive phrases or clauses

Come  
as you are  
as you were  
as I want you to be  
as a known enemy  
as a friend

(Nirvana, “Come as You Are”)

**Analysis:** The repetition of “as” allows Cobain to create a list of all of the things that a person could be to him. Cobain was known to be cynical and suspicious of people. He doesn’t trust people and this repetition of phrases demonstrates his distrust by indicating that you can present yourself anyway you want, and he still won’t care.

**Metaphor:** comparison of two unlike things

“I’ve been locked inside your heart-shaped box for weeks.”

(Nirvana, “Heart-shaped Box”)

**Analysis:** The singer cannot escape the woman that he loves. He’s trapped in a metaphoric box. Because the box is “locked” he cannot get away from her. It’s not clear whether he locked the box or she did. Either way, the metaphor demonstrates the power of love to completely contain another human.

**Rhetorical Question:** A point made in the form of a question. (Rhetorical questions are not meant to be answered.)

“What else should I be?  
All apologies.”

(Nirvana, “All Apologies”)

**Analysis:** There is nothing left for the singer to do. He’s tried everything, but nothing works. He’s sorry, but he’s basically saying that he can’t *be* anything else.

Works Cited

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