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Model Paper

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Music touches the soul and tantalizes the senses. Music that stays with a person usually carries a universal theme that allows the listener to relate to the lyrics. Music that is near and dear to an individual usually parallels a person's life, allowing that person to connect to the song and extract meaning from it. One song that has done this for me is Nickelback's newest hit "If Today was your Last Day." This song is a theme song for my life, using a narrative structure to give advice to the listener regarding the precious nature of life and the importance of not letting life fleet away advances the theme of carpe diem as shown through the narrative structure of the song and the strong diction used.

The theme of Nickelback's hit song "If Today was your Last Day," is the importance of not only realizing the precious nature of life and the fleeting passage of time, but more importantly to live life as if today was the last day. Nickelback begins the song in a narrative structure, attributing his good advice to a best friend. The advice given is that "each day's a gift and not a given right." This declarative statement uses straight forward diction to make the listener realize the precious nature of each given day. If more people would live their life in this manner, they would make each day count and not take anything for granted. Nickelback continues his theme with the question "Would you live each moment like your last," making the listener realizes his/her own mortality and strive to live as if this were the last moment on earth. This philosophy in the forefront of thought would change the course of my life. I would do things differently and treat people differently if I didn't think that I would have another chance. Living life in this manner would certainly leave one with no regrets. The repetition of questions that reinforce the theme of the fleeting nature of life continues to probe the listener to change his/her philosophy. "Could you say good bye to yesterday? Leave old pictures in the past?"

Donate every dime you had? Forgive your enemies? Find that one you're dreaming of? Fall in love? Make your mark by mending a broken heart?" The questioning method employed by Nickelback throughout the song makes the listener realize the importance of the advice being given, further demonstrating the theme of life's precious nature and the importance of not letting life fleet away. The listener is forced to face the reality of the fleeting nature of life.

It is almost as if the listener is sitting down with Chad Kroeger and his best friend and contemplating the meaning of life. The narrative structure of the advice and the strong diction works to promote the important theme of the song. Throughout the song, the line "If today was your last day and tomorrow was too late," is repeated over and over. The diction and repetition used highlights mortality for the listener, forcing the listener to realize his/her own mortality. This realization is further reinforced through the repetition of the line. The power of the words "Each day's a gift and not a given right," forces the listener to realize the temporal nature of life and hopefully motivate the listener to live life as if the very next moment could be his/her last. I have come face to face with my own mortality several times throughout my life. When faced with mortality, it is easy to see the value of each moment. But with the everyday stresses and daily routine of life, it is often hard to focus on the really important things. The things that truly matter. Lives are lived differently when the realization of mortality is in the forefront of one's mind. And since there is only one chance to live every moment of life, it is important not to waste a second, to live each moment without regret, and to focus on the important things in life.

Every person in the universe would probably agree that if today was actually their very last day on earth, the choices made and the time spent would be different than an ordinary day. Why not live each day in this manner as stressed by Nickelback? Why not seize the day and live with no regrets? Why not love and live for the present? Why not live as if the moment could never be relived? In reality, the

moment can't be retrieved or relived. Living in this manner, would allow for a life full of meaning and absent of regret.