

student activity 1

Name _____ Date _____

Check out Akala's Tedx Talk on Hip Hop and Shakespeare: youtu.be/DSbtkLA3GrY

After watching the Tedx Talk, let's take a closer look at the language. Below are the words from Rza's solo in "12 Jewelz." (Akala performs this solo at 14:35 in the video. Try listening to his performance without watching him.) You can follow along with the words bellows:

The pre-existence of the **mathematical** biochemical equations
The **manifestations** of God, **Earth** Air Fire and Water
which are in it's **basic** formation, **solid** liquid and gases
that **caused** the land masses, and the **space** catalyst
and all **matter** that **exists** and is dense
Third dimension, that must be **observed** through **physical** comprehension
It **takes** a **nerve** to be struck, **wisdom** is the wise
poet **spoken** to wake up, the dumb who've been sleeping
The **fourth** dimension is time, it goes **inside** the mind
Run the **channels** energized up **through** the back of your spine
So **observe** as my G energy strikes a **vital nerve**
One **swerve** of the **tongue** it **pierces** like a **sword** through the lung
- lyrics from "12 Jewelz" by Gravediggaz

Analyze this rap. In 1-2 sentences, what is the text saying?

Does the author think that education is important? Why or why not?

In your own words, why do you think education is important?

Extension: write a sonnet or 12-line rap about the value of education.

student activity 2

Design your own costume

Name _____ Date _____

The costumes in *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* combine different cultural traditions, including classical ballet and hip hop. Let's add you to the mix. Imagine you are going to join the creative team and make a performing role for yourself. What is one tradition or style that you want to bring to the show?

Brainstorm: what are clothes that you wear which reflect that tradition?

Imagine a costume for yourself that combines elements of the Hip Hop Nutcracker with the tradition or style that you named above. In the box below, draw yourself next to the dancer pictured. Include a costume that includes at least one garment from your own tradition or style, and at least one garment in the style of the show.

