Fate, Chance or Choice?



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndYxBQXhNjI>

1. How does the metaphor of the domino series affect our interpretation of Run Lola Run?

Every action has an opposite and equal reaction.

Chain of causation – link in the chain of causation

Begins each of sequence of the film and is shown on the television screen in her mother’s house. Visual symbol to show how every action leads has an influence on events in the future.

Example:

Running down stairs

Trips, jumps and is bitten - dog

This has an effect on what follows.

Bumps into people: Freeze frames that show the future. This shows how even small events, which seem random, can have a significant effect on the course of someone’s life.

Frau Jager and the mild mannered clerk. Sado-masochism

1. Explain which is most significant in the film:
	1. Fate:
	2. Chance
	3. Choice

Which quote is most relevant to your study of Run Lola Run?

“[Fate is for those too weak to determine their own destiny.](http://thinkexist.com/quotation/fate_is_for_those_too_weak_to_determine_their_own/212979.html)”

 [Kamran Hamid](http://thinkexist.com/quotes/kamran_hamid/)

Lola determines her own destiny by controlling the shape of future events. She is able to construct a fairy tale ending out of tragedy.

“[Each man is the architect of his own fate.](http://thinkexist.com/quotation/each_man_is_the_architect_of_his_own_fate/10315.html)”

 [Appius Claudius](http://thinkexist.com/quotes/appius_claudius/)

Lola, in the last sequence, learns that she ultimately has agency over her life and is able to be the “architect of [her] own fate”.

“[Fate chooses our relatives, we choose our friends.](http://thinkexist.com/quotation/fate_chooses_our_relatives-we_choose_our_friends/13741.html)”

Breaking away from familial relationships and building a more meaningful existence through the relationships we create and build.

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| The **domino effect** is a chain reaction that occurs when a small change causes a similar change nearby, which then will cause another similar change, and so on in linear sequence. The term is best known as a mechanical effect, and is used as an analogy to a falling row of dominoes. It typically refers to a linked sequence of events where the time between successive events is relatively small. It can be used literally (an observed series of actual collisions) or metaphorically (causal linkages within systems such as global finance or politics). |

# SAMPLE ANSWERS

**Text One (Round Here – Counting Crows)**

1. **Identify one way in which Maria does not belong. (1 mark).**

Notes:

Sample Answers:

Notes:

Sample Answers:

*For one mark, students were required to state one way in which Maria did not belong.*

- Maria does not belong as she is from out of town, from Nashville.

- Maria does not belong as she feels caught between two worlds (like she’s walking on a wire in a circus)

- Maria does not belong to mainstream society as she does not seem to follow “normal” behaviours expected by society (takes her clothes off outside his house)

- Maria does not belong as she feels misunderstood by others.

- Maria does not belong as she feels that she has to ‘act’ normal.

- Maria’s suicidal impulses are an indication that she feels alienated and does not belong.

**2. Identify one image from the song and explain its significance to the concept of belonging. (2 marks)**

*For two marks, students were required to identify one key image from the song and then discuss how that particular image reveals something specific about belonging. It was not enough to simply state that the image showed ‘belonging’ or ‘not belonging.’ Some students lost marks as they were unable to link the image to some aspect of belonging.*

- “Step out the front door like a ghost into the fog” represents how the persona feels like he blends in, but is not the same as everyone else. He feels lost in society.

- The image of “Angels get[ting] a better view of the crumbling difference between wrong and right” shows the importance of shared values to belonging. The ‘angels’ represent the view that values have been lost among society and some feel they do not belong due to this.

- “She walks along the edge of where the ocean meets the land” is an important image in the song. It shows how we sometimes feel caught between two worlds, and therefore do not truly belong to either.

- “We talk like lions but we sacrifice like lambs” shows that perhaps those who try to belong (Lions) may actually be hiding their true selves (Lambs).

- The image of the girl whose “walls are crumbling” shows the difficulty we face with trying to fit in with others. She feels she is metaphorically falling apart.

- The imagery of falling towards the end of the text represents the fear of not fitting in. The need to be caught by others represents the necessity of belonging.

**3. How does the song shape your understanding of belonging? (3 marks)**

Notes:

Sample Answer:

Notes:

Sample Answers:

Notes:

*In general, it is important for students to realise that a ‘how’ question needs a detailed response involving quotations and discussion of more than one language technique. It is also not enough to just discuss the language techniques. Each language technique must be linked to a principle of belonging in a tangible way. Students who received full marks established a good understanding of the ideas of belonging in the song and supported these with discussion of at least two language techniques that helped to convey these ideas.*

The song represents the idea that although we may attempt to belong to the norms of society, underneath we may be struggling against the constant pressure of pretending to be something that we are not. The struggle to conform is represented in the character of Maria, who tries to fit into a place where they “all look the same.” The repetition of this line re-inforces Maria’s alienation, especially when coupled with the continual imagery of her mental disintegration, as seen in her “crumbling” walls and her thoughts of “jumping.” The idea of being forced to act a certain way to fit in, whilst hiding your true self is shown in the similes of looking like “lions” but sacrificing “like lambs.” The connotations of courage and meekness associated with each simile emphasise the true nature of those who do not belong.