

I. Introduction

The Beatles were an English rock band who became widely regarded as the greatest and most influential act of the rock era. They gained popularity in the United Kingdom after their first hit and they then became international stars, leading the "British Invasion" of the United States pop market. They are the best-selling band in history, with estimated sales of over 600 million records worldwide. The group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988, with all four members being inducted individually as well from 1994 to 2015.

II. Pre – Discussion

1. Do you know The Beatles? / Have you heard of The Beatles?
2. What is your impression of them?
3. They were and still are popular to a lot of people. What do you think is their appeal?

III. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "*I Wanna Hold Your Hand*".

I WANNA HOLD YOUR HAND

The Beatles

Oh yeah I'll tell you something
I think you'll understand
When I say that something
I wanna hold your hand

I wanna hold your hand (2x)

Oh please say to me
You'll let me be your man
And please say to me
You'll let me hold your hand

Now let me hold your hand
I wanna hold your hand

And when I touch you I feel happy inside
It's such a feeling that my love
I can't hide, I can't hide, I can't hide

Yeah, you got that something
I think you'll understand
When I say that something
I wanna hold your hand

I wanna hold your hand (2x)



And when I touch you I feel happy inside
It's such a feeling that my love
I can't hide, I can't hide, I can't hide

Yeah you, got that something
I think you'll understand
When I feel that something
I wanna hold your hand

I wanna hold your hand (3x)

IV. Discussion Questions

1. What kind of feeling did you get listening to the song?
2. The song "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" became The Beatles first #1 single in the US even though they were already very popular in the UK that time. What do you think did the American fans like about this song?
3. What do you think is that 'something' they are talking about in the song?
4. Do you agree that 'I wanna hold your hand' is a very innocent and shy desire to show affection?
5. How is it different now especially among teenagers?
6. Can you compare love songs before and now?
7. Which do you prefer to listen to? Why?
8. If you are going to write a love letter, what will you say?

V. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.

I. Pre – Discussion

1. Who and what are the significant people and places in your life?
2. Why do you consider them significant?

II. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "In My Life".


IN MY LIFE
The Beatles

There are places I remember
All my life though some have changed
Some forever not for better
Some have gone and some remain
All these places have their moments
With lovers and friends I still can recall
Some are dead and some are living
In my life I've loved them all

But of all these friends and lovers
There is no one compares with you
And these memories lose their meaning
When I think of love as something new
Though I know I'll never lose affection
For people and things that went before
I know I'll often stop and think about them
In my life I love you more

Though I know I'll never lose affection
For people and things that went before
I know I'll often stop and think about them
In my life I love you more

In my life I love you more

III. Discussion Questions

This song is an autobiographical work of John Lennon. This was written in a form of a poem reminiscing his childhood years although only a little part of the original lyrics made it into the final piece.

1. How did you get your name? Does it have any meaning?
2. What can you remember about elementary school?
3. Can you describe your childhood neighborhood?
4. What was your first job?
5. Have you lived in many different places?
6. What would you change about your life if you could?
7. What's the best thing that happened to you ?
8. What is the motto of your life?

IV. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.

I. Pre – Discussion

1. What does 'words of wisdom' mean?
2. Who gives you words of wisdom?

II. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "*Let It Be*".



LET IT BE
The Beatles

When I find myself in times of trouble
Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be
And in my hour of darkness
She is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

Let it be, let it be
Let it be, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

And when the broken-hearted people
Living in the world agree
There will be an answer, let it be
For though they may be parted
There is still a chance that they will see
There will be an answer, let it be

Let it be, let it be
Let it be, let it be
Yeah, there will be an answer, let it be
Let it be, let it be
Let it be, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

Let it be, let it be
Ah, let it be, yeah, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

And when the night is cloudy
There is still a light that shines on me
Shine on until tomorrow, let it be
I wake up to the sound of music,
Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

Let it be, let it be
Let it be, yeah, let it be
Oh, there will be an answer, let it be
Let it be, let it be
Let it be, yeah, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

**NOTE**

Paul McCartney (songwriter) was not referring to the holy figure Mother Mary but to his mother whose name is also Mary. She died when he was 14. Paul dreamt about her one night when he was going through a difficult time and she said to him very gently, very reassuringly: "Let it be." Even so, he said the fans can interpret the song however they want.

III. Discussion Questions

1. What is the message of the song?
2. What does let it be mean? In what situation/s can you apply this?
3. Have you had an experience in life where you 'let it be' ?
4. Do you remember a word of wisdom that somebody told you? (ex. "Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears." --John Lennon)
5. Do you believe that the older the person gets, the wiser he becomes? If so, do you seek out old people for advise?

IV. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.

I. Pre – Discussion

1. What is your best childhood memory?
2. Did you have a favorite toy as a child? Favorite place? Favorite person?

II. Listening

Listen to the song. This is “*Penny Lane*”.



PENNY LANE
The Beatles

In Penny Lane there is a barber showing photographs
Of every head he's had the pleasure to know
And all the people that come and go
Stop and say hello

On the corner is a banker with a motorcar
The little children laugh at him behind his back
And the banker never wears a mack
In the pouring rain, very strange

Penny Lane is in my ears and in my eyes
There beneath the blue suburban skies
I sit, and meanwhile back

In Penny Lane there is a fireman with an hourglass
And in his pocket is a portrait of the queen
He likes to keep his fire engine clean
It's a clean machine

Penny Lane is in my ears and in my eyes
A four of fish and finger pies
In summer, meanwhile back

Behind the shelter in the middle of a roundabout
The pretty nurse is selling poppies from a tray
And though she feels as if she's in a play
She is anyway

In Penny Lane the barber shaves another customer
We see the banker sitting waiting for a trim
And then the fireman rushes in
From the pouring rain, very strange

Penny lane is in my ears and in my eyes
There beneath the blue suburban skies
I sit, and meanwhile back
Penny lane is in my ears and in my eyes
There beneath the blue suburban skies
Penny Lane



III. Vocabulary

Match each word with its definition.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. mack 2. suburban 3. hourglass 4. portrait 5. roundabout 6. poppies 7. trim 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) British term for traffic circle. B) make (something) neat or of the required size or form by cutting away irregular or unwanted parts. C) a waterproof coat D) Of an outlying district of a city, especially a residential one. E) a painting, drawing, photograph, or engraving of a person, especially one depicting only the face or head and shoulders. F) a kind of flower G) an invertible device with two connected glass bulbs containing sand that takes an hour to pass from the upper to the lower bulb.

IV. Discussion Questions

1. Can you describe where you lived when you were a child?
2. What did you look like?
3. What did you like to do when you were young?
4. Do you remember anything about your personality when you were a child?
5. How are you similar to your parents? How are you different?

V. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.

I. Pre – Discussion

1. Have you read the novel *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami?
2. (YES) What is your impression of the novel?
3. (NO) Have you heard the song *Norwegian Wood* by The Beatles?

II. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "*Norwegian Wood*".

NORWEGIAN WOOD
The Beatles

I once had a girl, or should I say, she once had me
She showed me her room, isn't it good, Norwegian wood?

She asked me to stay and she told me to sit anywhere
So I looked around and I noticed there wasn't a chair

I sat on her rug, biding my time, drinking her wine
We talked until two and then she said, "It's time for bed"

She told me she worked in the morning and started to laugh
I told her I didn't and crawled off to sleep in the bath

And when I awoke I was alone, this bird had flown
So I lit a fire, isn't it good, Norwegian wood?

III. Post Listening Discussion

"What is your understanding or interpretation of the song?"

"Norwegian Wood is my song completely. It was about an affair I was having. I was very careful and paranoid because I didn't want my wife, Cyn, to know that there really was something going on outside of the household. I'd always had some kind of affairs going, so I was trying to be sophisticated in writing about an affair, but in such a smoke-screen way that you couldn't tell. But I can't remember any specific woman it had to do with."

John Lennon
All We Are Saying, David Sheff

"It's him trying to pull a bird, it was about an affair. John told Playboy that he hadn't the faintest idea where the title came from but I do. Peter Asher had his room done out in wood, a lot of people were decorating their places in wood. Norwegian wood.

...so she makes him sleep in the bath and then finally in the last verse I had this idea to set the Norwegian wood on fire as revenge, so we did it very tongue in cheek. She led him on, then said 'You'd better sleep in the bath'. In our world the guy had to have some sort of revenge. It could have meant I lit a fire to keep myself warm, and wasn't the decor of her house wonderful? But it didn't, it meant I burned the fucking place down as an act of revenge, and then we left it there and went into the instrumental."

Paul McCartney
Many Years From Now, Barry Miles

<http://www.beatlesbible.com/songs/norwegian-wood-this-bird-has-flown/>



IV. Discussion Questions

1. What is an affair or extra – marital relationship?
2. Why do you think people 'cheat' on their partners?
3. What is your opinion of people with extra-marital relationships?
4. If you were in a marriage and your spouse cheated on you, do you think you could forgive him/her? Why or why not?
5. " I had this idea to set the Norwegian wood on fire as revenge. In our world the guy had to have some sort of revenge." What does the last sentence mean? Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

V. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.