

I. Introduction

Michael Jackson, popularly known as the “King of Pop” is a global figure in popular culture for over four decades because his contributions to music and dance. The music videos for his songs were credited with breaking down racial barriers and with transforming the medium into an art form and promotional tool. Jackson popularized a number of complicated dance techniques, such as the robot and the moonwalk, to which he gave the name. His distinctive sound and style has influenced numerous artists of various music genres.

II. Pre – Discussion

1. Are you a fan of Michael Jackson? Why or why not?
2. (YES) What MJ song is your favorite? (NO) Do you know anyone who likes him?
3. Why do you think he was and is very popular to a lot of people?

III. Listening

Listen to the song. This is “Black or White”.


BLACK OR WHITE
Michael Jackson

I took my baby on a Saturday bang
Boy is that girl with you
Yes we're one and the same
Now I believe in miracles
And a miracle has happened tonight

But, if you're thinkin' about my baby
It don't matter if you're black or white
They print my message in the Saturday Sun
I had to tell them I ain't second to none

And I told about equality and it's true
Either you're wrong or you're right
But, if you're thinkin' about my baby
It don't matter if you're black or white

I am tired of this devil
I am tired of this stuff
I am tired of this business
Ohh when the going gets rough
I ain't scared of your brother
I ain'ts scared of no sheets
I ain't scared of nobody
Girl when the goin' gets mean



Protection

For gangs, clubs, and nations
 Causing grief in human relations
 It's a turf war on a global scale
 I'd rather hear both sides of the tale

See, it's not about races
 Just places
 Faces
 Where your blood comes from
 Is where your space is
 I've seen the bright get duller
 I'm not going to spend my life being a color

Don't tell me you agree with me
 When I saw you kicking dirt in my eye
 But, if you're thinkin' about my baby
 It don't matter if you're black or white
 I said if you're thinkin' of being my baby
 It don't matter if you're black or white
 I said if you're thinkin' of being my brother
 It don't matter if you're black or white

Ooh, ooh
 Yea, yea, yea now
 Ooh, ooh
 Yea, yea, yea now
 It's black, it's white
 It's tough for them to get by
 It's black, it's white, (x3) whoo

IV. Discussion Questions

1. How are you going to define 'equality' ?
2. Do you think that people are basically the same all over the world or are they all different?
3. Do you think there are superior races and inferior races?
4. What does the singer mean when he said "I'm not going to spend my life being a color" ?
5. What message did you get from this song?



V. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RuAlyNclck>

I. Pre – Discussion

1. If you can change something about yourself, what would it be and why?
2. Do you want to change something in society?
3. Who or What should be making this change?

II. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "*Man in The Mirror*".


MAN IN THE MIRROR
Michael Jackson

I'm gonna make a change
For once in my life
It's gonna feel real good
Gonna make a difference
Gonna make it right

As I, turn up the collar on
My favorite winter coat
This wind is blowing my mind
I see the kids in the streets
With not enough to eat
Who am I to be blind?
Pretending not to see their needs

A summer's disregard, a broken bottle top
And a one man soul
They follow each other on the wind ya' know
'Cause they got nowhere to go
That's why I want you to know

I'm starting with the man in the mirror
I'm asking him to change his ways
And no message could have been any clearer
If you want to make the world a better place
Take a look at yourself, and then make a change
I've been a victim of a selfish kind of love
It's time that I realize
That there are some with no home, not a nickel to loan
Could it be really me, pretending that they're not alone?



A widow deeply scarred, somebody's broken heart
 And a washed-out dream
 They follow the pattern of the wind ya' see
 'Cause they got no place to be
 That's why I'm starting with me

I'm starting with the man in the mirror
 I'm asking him to change his ways
 And no message could have been any clearer
 If you want to make the world a better place
 Take a look at yourself, and then make a change

I'm starting with the man in the mirror
 I'm asking him to change his ways
 And no message could have been any clearer
 If you want to make the world a better place
 Take a look at yourself and then make that
 Change!

III. Discussion Questions

1. Who is the man in the mirror?
2. Pick the line from the song that has the same message as this statement: A genuine change must first come from within the individual, only then can he or she attempt to make a significant contribution to humanity. – Dalai Lama
3. What are the common social issues in your country?
4. Are these problems obvious to many people?
5. What change in society can you contribute to?

IV. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PivWY9wn5ps>

I. Pre – Discussion

1. What is courage?
2. Would you consider a person a coward if he doesn't fight back? Why or why not?
3. Which is harder to confront, your enemies or your friends? Why?

II. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "*Beat It*".


BEAT IT
Michael Jackson

They told him don't you ever come around here
Don't want to see your face, you better disappear
The fire's in their eyes and their words are really clear
So beat it, just beat it

You better run, you better do what you can
Don't want to see no blood, don't be a macho man
You want to be tough, better do what you can
So beat it, but you want to be bad

Just beat it, beat it, beat it, beat it
No one wants to be defeated
Showin' how funky and strong is your fight
It doesn't matter who's wrong or right

Just beat it, beat it
Just beat it, beat it
Just beat it, beat it
Just beat it, beat it

They're out to get you, better leave while you can
Don't want to be a boy, you want to be a man
You want to stay alive, better do what you can
So beat it, just beat it

You have to show them that you're really not scared
You're playin' with your life, this ain't no truth or dare
They'll kick you, then they beat you,
Then they'll tell you it's fair
So beat it, but you want to be bad

Just beat it, beat it, beat it, beat it
No one wants to be defeated
Showin' how funky and strong is your fight
It doesn't matter who's wrong or right



III. Discussion Questions

1. Beat it as slang means _____.
2. What is a macho man?
3. Do you believe that it also takes courage not to fight back, to sit down and to listen, to lose?
4. Give me at least 3 simple situations that require courage.
5. "You have to show them that you're really not scared" Does it mean to have courage, you have to have no fear?
6. Give me a summary of the song's theme

IV. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ym0hZG-zNOK>

I. Pre – Discussion

1. What is courage?
2. Would you consider a person a coward if he doesn't fight back? Why or why not?
3. Which is harder to confront, your enemies or your friends? Why?

II. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "Beat It".



HEAL THE WORLD
Michael Jackson

There's a place in your heart
And I know that it is love
And this place could be much
Brighter than tomorrow
And if you really try
You'll find there's no need to cry
In this place you'll feel
There's no hurt or sorrow

There are ways to get there
If you care enough for the living
Make a little space
Make a better place

[Chorus]
Heal the world
Make it a better place
For you and for me
And the entire human race
There are people dying
If you care enough for the living
Make it a better place
For you and for me

If you want to know why
There's love that cannot lie
Love is strong
It only cares of joyful giving
If we try we shall see
In this bliss we cannot feel
Fear of dread
We stop existing and start living
The it feels that always
Love's enough for us growing
So make a better world
Make a better place



There's a place in your heart
[repeat Chorus]

And the dream we were conceived in
 Will reveal a joyful face
 And the world we once believed in
 Will shine again in grace
 Then why do we keep strangling life
 Wound this earth, crucify its soul
 Though it's plain to see
 This world is heavenly
 Be god's glow

We could fly so high
 Let our spirits never die
 In my heart I feel you are all my brothers
 Create a world with no fear
 Together we cry happy tears
 See the nations turn their swords into plowshares
 We could really get there
 If you cared enough for the living
 Make a little space
 To make a better place

[repeat Chorus]

III. Discussion Questions

1. What is the message of the song?
2. Do you think the world needs healing? Why or why not?
3. In simple ways, how can we make the world a better place?
4. Can you cite an example of a world event where people are in need of help?
5. Should the government fund the welfare system? Why or why not?
6. What is a good reason for someone to receive welfare?
7. Why do people end up being homeless?
8. Do you agree that children are the ones who are more affected by social problems like war and poverty?
9. Do you think a time will come that nobody is suffering and that everyone is happy?



IV. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWf-eARnf6U>

I. Pre – Discussion: Definition

1. Define the word 'human'.
2. Do you believe that humans descended from apes? Why or why not?
3. Human nature is defined as ways of thinking, feeling, and acting that are common to most people. Can you give me examples of human nature?

II. Listening

Listen to the song. This is "*Human Nature*".


HUMAN NATURE
Michael Jackson

Looking out
Across the nighttime
The city winks a sleepless eye
Hear her voice
Shake my window
Sweet seducing sighs

Get me out
Into the nighttime
Four walls won't hold me tonight
If this town
Is just an apple
Then let me take a bite

If they say,
Why, why, tell 'em that it's human nature
Why, why, does he do it that way
If they say,
Why, why, tell 'em that it's human nature
Why, why does he do me that way

Reaching out
To touch a stranger
Electric eyes are everywhere
See that girl
She knows I'm watching
She likes the way I stare

If they say,
Why, why, tell 'em that it's human nature
Why, why, does he do me that way
If they say,
Why, why, tell 'em that it's human nature
Why, why does he do me that way



I like livin' this way
I like lovin' this way
(That way) Why why
(That way) Why why

Looking out
Across the morning
Where the city's heart begins to beat
Reaching out
I touch her shoulder
I'm dreaming of the street

If they say,
Why, why, tell 'em that it's human nature
Why, why, does he do me that way
If they say ...

III. Discussion Questions

1. What is your understanding of the song?
2. Do you think its part of human nature to desire?
3. Why do you think human beings are here on earth? What is our purpose?
4. So, do you believe that a person who is perceived bad can change over time?
Why or why not?
5. Do you agree that humans have innate good and bad sides?
6. Can nature be changed by habits or do you think nature will always show in the end?
7. Do you think humans are naturally selfish and competitive or social and selfless. Defend your answer.

IV. Full Song

Watch the music video / performance of this song.