

**Title of Session:** Learning From Lyrics

**Moderator:** Johnathan Chase

**Title of File:** 20071016lyrics

**Date:** October 16, 2007

Room: Learning From Lyrics Group

**DanaO** joined the room.

**BJB2:** welcome, Dana.

**DanaO:** thanks, am I in the right place for Learning from Lyrics?

**DanaO:** this is my first time

**BJB2:** indeed you are, Dana!

**DavidW:** Welcome to the Tapped In community, Dana

**JohnathanC:** pull up a chair and make yourself comfortable

**DanaO:** thank you!

**BJB2:** you're in for a real treat. Johnathan leads a really excellent discussion

**StellaB** joined the room.

**DavidW:** Hi, Stella. Welcome

**BJB2:** yay...you made it, Stella!

**StellaB:** finally!

**BJB2:** ok, it's a quorum, Johnathan...

**JohnathanC:** great

**BJB2:** Welcome to this month's Learning From Lyrics discussion

**BJB2:** we usually start all Tapped In discussions with introductions...

**BJB2:** please tell Johnathan where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

**JohnathanC:** 7/8 social studies central NY

**StellaB:** Located in Modesto CA; I'm a MLIS student at San Jose State Univ--will possibly teach in community college

**BJB2:** I'm in Pennsylvania and teach remedial communication

**JeffC:** I'm on Tapped In Helpdesk... love rock & roll and am the resident wise guy. I'm in Forest Grove Oregon.

**DanaO:** San Diego, Spanish-all levels

**DavidW** is in New Jersey, near New York City and leads a discussion on math and technology

**JohnathanC:** Ready class?

**DanaO:** ready

**StellaB:** let it roll, baby roll...gotta get the music reference in.

**JohnathanC:** I played this song in class this week, listen carefully and see if you can figure out how I connected it to a time period in US history

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8tNjD8w3g&mode=related&search=>

**StellaB:** Hmm...can you connect this to the seventies? (I heart The Harder They Come soundtrack!)

**JeffC:** you were doing a retrospective on old talk show hosts and it was Dick Cavett Day?

**DavidW** smiles

**JohnathanC:** close

**JeffC:** here are the lyrics btw:

<http://www.stlyrics.com/lyrics/hardertheycome/thehardertheycome.htm>

**JohnathanC:** What did you hear...key words...themes?

**DavidW:** Be Here Now

**JeffC:** harder they come... harder they fall... one and all

**StellaB:** oppression...slavery...officers (police state?)

**JohnathanC:** First I have my students listen and share ideas before I distribute lyrics

**JohnathanC:** So after we listened to the song and read the lyrics I distribute this work sheet

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/harderdbq.html>

**JohnathanC:** American Revolution.....it could be a Patriot fight song.

**BJB2:** excellent, John!

**StellaB:** well, who knew. Maybe Janet Reno needed to include this in her anthology.

**JohnathanC:** love to blend in character Ed themes whenever possible....don't give up

**JohnathanC:** how about the similar wording "harder they come"....."harder the conflict"

**BJB2:** you have to invest in overcoming adversity

**JohnathanC:** perseverance....know any "sunshine students"

**BJB2** rolls her eyes...one or two ;-)

**JohnathanC:** What were they fighting for...Liberty and for who.....Us!

**JohnathanC:** They didn't give up, so what is your excuse Johnny

**JeffC:** hmmm... do you bring in the black panthers into your discussion?

**JohnathanC:** Parallels to situation in Iraq?

**DavidW:** much greater motivation fighting for one's homeland

**JohnathanC:** guerrilla fighters holding off the greatest land and naval power in the world

**JohnathanC:** How do you defeat an opponent fighting for a cause?

**DanaO:** passion, when you put your all into a cause

**JohnathanC:** yes

**JohnathanC:** speaking of violence and war, lets move on to another song

**JeffC:** I'm not joking about my question btw. the black panthers rose out of the disproportionate number of blacks being sent to Vietnam... classism... racism... etc. lead to anomie... and of course a need for revolution. there are certainly parallels to the

revolutionary war to be brought out there.

**JohnathanC:** I haven't brought them in previously but I do see your point....hard to know when class clowns are being serious

**JeffC:** well... when we use words like "anomie"

**DavidW** smiles

**DavidW** . o O ( or "I'm not joking..." )

**JeffC:** oh yeah... that too

**JohnathanC:** point taken

**JohnathanC:** now read...

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/2001/harper0102.html>

**DavidW** . o O ( music as a panacea )

**BJB2:** or music as a way to help people overcome the trials and tribulations of daily life

**StellaB:** Music as a force for peace.

**JohnathanC:** balance

**JeffC:** imagine

**JohnathanC:** Lets start with another song/music video first and see where discussion takes us....handouts to come later

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSzhMwOk3vY>

**BJB2:** in a world of violence you are 'knocking on heaven's door' every time you enter that world

**JohnathanC:** Columbine, Virginia Tech, Cleveland....get your reading glasses on class...

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/Jeremys.html>

**JeffC:** <http://snipurl.com/idontlikemondays>

**JeffC:** thought I'd add that one to the mix

**JohnathanC:** thanks Jeff be sure to scroll below the text on my page and explore some of

the links

**JeffC:** let me ask... in all seriousness... about bringing up extremely relevant horrific cases of student violence, world violence, etc.... do you fear repercussions from parents/admin, etc. who might argue that you're inciting possible action by students?

**JeffC:** because... in my experience... admin would rather \*ignore\* horrors than face them...

**JeffC:** if they're not discussed... they're not responsible.

**JohnathanC:** Its all about the context... we use the songs to try to understand why these things happen, not promote them

**StellaB:** This might not work in a rural or conservative community, like mine, where only like 12% of residents have college degrees

**JohnathanC:** bullying, mental illness, violence in the home

**DanaO:** but if a cool band like "Pearl Jam" is singing about suicide, I could see how kids could want to emulate that behavior without realizing Pearl Jam's original intent

**JeffC:** I'm not arguing that you're promoting them... but as Stella says... just \*mentioning and discussion\* of issues like these often raise red flags.

**JohnathanC:** student visual...

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/Jeremys.html>

**JohnathanC:** I think they get it

**DanaO:** it's going on whether we talk about them or not. The kids just feel adults are out of touch if we don't talk about them

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/Monday4.html>

**StellaB:** I would think the discussion would provide the context, and the focus...

**JeffC:** I completely agree Dana... I'm just pointing out the obvious obstacles to raising issues like this in K-12 today.

**StellaB:** nice student response!

**StellaB:** referring to visual...

**JohnathanC:** Songs that seem to promote drug use...give young people more credit

**DanaO:** it is difficult to approach, but we need to find a way to discuss it in an age-appropriate manner

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/cocaine.html>

**StellaB:** haha--we do give the young adults more credit--it's the parents we have to worry about

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/needle.html>

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/bridge.html>

**JohnathanC:** Parents.....

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/walk.html>

**StellaB:** Really hits close to home, as it were...

**DanaO:** parents are setting the example

**StellaB:** The student work is great.

**JohnathanC:** Thank you

**JohnathanC:** Before we finish

**JohnathanC:** I want to share some new comments at our music education MySpace

**BJB2** smiles...cool, John

**JohnathanC:** If you are not familiar with it be sure to scroll down the page to the comment section

**JeffC:** oh... now you really \*have\* crossed the line Johnathan... myspace!

**JohnathanC:** ...and a new song BJB!

**JohnathanC:** ...and look for my former students comment

**JohnathanC:** <http://www.myspace.com/learningfromlyrics>

**StellaB:** Wow, Ranking Roger is on your friend list...!

**StellaB:** oh, and a zillion other notables... :-)

**JohnathanC:** Know any teachers on MySpace send em my way

**JohnathanC:** Janet Reno's Song of America has a MySpace

**StellaB:** For some reason, all my teacher pals resist Myspace--they say it's "dangerous" for them to set up pages, etc.

**StellaB:** I heard some cuts from the Song of America, and they sounded great.

**StellaB:** thanks for all the good info & presentation here.

**JohnathanC:** Good point, all how you use it

**JohnathanC:** it's not really a personal MySpace

**BJB2:** thanks, John. Next Learning from Lyrics is November 20?

**JohnathanC:** thank you everyone

**DavidW:** Thanks, Johnathan

**DanaO:** muchas gracias!

**StellaB:** Jonathan, thanks again...ciao.

**JohnathanC:** de nada

**JohnathanC:** adios

**StellaB:** or should I say, "yiasou" since I'm Greek.

**BJB2** waves goodnight

**JeffC:** thanks

**JohnathanC:** you're welcome