

**Music 238 Take-Home Quiz 4  
RESPONSES**

***Provide a short (a couple of lines, or at most a single verse or chorus) quotation from a song lyric that you feel brings a feeling of hope, comfort and/or philosophical perspective for the unfortunate current events we are experiencing.***

When I've nowhere left to go  
And I need my heroes  
I've got friends that will run through walls  
I've got friends that will run through walls  
And I've got friends that don't text, they call  
When I've nowhere left to go and I need you the most  
I've got friends that will run through walls

"Run Through Walls" by The Script  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD1OCuP8yo>

I think in times of stress (and social distancing!), it is really great to be reminded of those who will walk through the storm with us. This song is really great at reminding us of that. The lyrics are very straightforward – as good friends should be! The Script is very good at making simple yet touching songs, check them out!

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"So long, my love  
I've got to do this on my own  
Submit myself to the unknown  
I'm just a freak without a home, screaming:

"Hello cruel world!"  
I really want to live a long time, but if I don't  
I want to thank you for giving me some life  
I think we can make it if we try"

Song Title: "Hello Cruel World"  
Written/Performed by: Dent May  
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cDCr4qSybI>

I believe that this quote resonates with me because of the general anxieties that a lot of us are facing nowadays. Me and countless of my friends have lost our jobs, been forced back into abusive households, and have had to leave our lives that we've made in San Francisco behind altogether. For some of us, it really feels like we're "freaks without a home", because it's extremely hard for me and a lot of my friends to feel comfortable in places that aren't San Francisco due to the fact that most of us are queer or gender non-conforming. It's been a very interesting ride, and this song helps me find a lot of calm and peace. The instrumentation and lyrics hand to a very melancholy, bittersweet attitude which aligns with the current times. We college students feel like the institution has been particularly apathetic to our well being. We feel like the world is apathetic to our well being. Especially due to the fact that most college freshman are exempt from receiving \$1200 from the government due to the fact that we're claimed as dependents on our parents' taxes. The world is a cruel place right now, and "I really wanna live a long time".

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Cause, when I'm down and I'm done  
And I'm coming unplugged  
When I'm ready to fall  
You're the one, always holding me up, with love

" With Love" Performed and Produced By. Christina Grimmie  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzJGu0GdhpK>.

With Love is a song based on an emotional time in your life you are going through a tough break up or losing someone you really love. The part coming unplugged meaning being away from reality since there are a lot of things to go through emotionally. The last line you're the one always holding me up, with love means that the people that love me and support me will keep me going even though I feel down and not myself and I feel full when you are there for me.

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We are the world We are the children We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving There's a choice we're making We're saving our own lives It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me  
"We Are The World" By Michael Jackson (USA for Africa)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9BNoNFKCBI>

By saying "We are the world. We are the children" means We can be the ones who help each other and world consists of love. "Children" are future, and if they are in need of our help, the future is needing help. Line 3, 4, 5 are reflecting one line 1 and 2. It's telling us why we should care. I like "We're saving our own lives", because it is telling us that each choice we make, each person we help are reflecting on our own lives. When we save the children and help each other out, we are actually helping ourselves. We are saving our own lives. At the end of the phrase, it goes "you and me". This brings the audience close to the singers, and it shows a desperation of wanting a hand to make "a better day" happen sooner.

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Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high  
There's a land that I've heard of, once in a lullaby  
Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue,  
And the dreams that you dare to dream, really do come true.

Over the Rainbow, By Harold Arlen  
Performed by Judy Garland, in The Wizard of Oz  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSZxmZmBfnU>

This song is probably the most hopeful song I could think of, and it almost instantaneously came to mind when I read the quiz prompt. Obviously, it is known that one will never be able to see the end of the rainbow, but this song is for dreamers who think outside of the box. This song encourages you to look beyond your current situation and envision what could be and what could come eventually. So even though sometimes in life, especially under the circumstances we are in right now, it is hard to look beyond and past the fear and the anxiety we are experiencing right now, "somewhere over the rainbow", there is a solution and a resolution to all of this madness. During the time that the Wizard of Oz came out, this song represented hope in the midst of world war 2. I like to believe and have read that the whole movie is a metaphor for the world war. The same hopefulness in the midst of chaos can be applied within our times as well.

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I hope someday  
We'll sit down together  
And laugh with each other  
About these days, these days  
All our troubles  
We'll lay to rest  
And we'll wish we could come back to these days, these days

These days by Rudimental

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIXPdOuNU3Q>

These lyrics foreshadows how we all will look at this pandemic situation in a couple years or more. We would reflect on this situation and maybe find the silver lining. Perhaps, we look back fondly in this time in the stuff about what we accomplished, or knowledge we gained. Moreover, we will go through this and realize this situation was not as bad as we thought it was in a global aspect. Maybe this highlighted the inadequacies in our institutions and it will change it for the better.

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"It's beauty in the struggle, ugliness in the success  
Hear my words or listen to my signal of distress  
I grew up in the city and though sometimes we had less  
Compared to some of my n---as down the block, man, we were blessed."

"Love Yourz" By Jermaine Lamarr Cole  
Performed by J Cole

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTGTP514Bxw>

In light of the pandemic, I like how "Love Yourz" still stays relevant, as it refers to success as obtained despite displeasing means or situations. There's a beauty to be considered in the unity of people's self-quarantining, that we who partake make our small yet undeniable impact regarding Covid19's spread. There is an ugliness in that some will pass on, but the eventual success is in the potential cure that could save most others. The second half of this quote keeps us mindful of others' struggle. Reality is cruel, but neither equally nor to all; as we have displeasures with the quarantine, we still have the pleasure of a home to safely quarantine in.

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All-Star  
Written by: Greg Camp  
Performed by: Smash Mouth

Lyrics:

"Hey now, you're an all-star, get your game on, go play  
Hey now, you're a rock star, get the show on, get paid  
And all that glitters is gold  
Only shooting stars break the mold"

My interpretation is that in this song it is about someone who is always getting pushed down and the world around them is turning cold and chaotic as mentioned in

other verses. The chorus, which are the lyrics above are words of encouragement to the person to keep doing their thing and keep moving ahead, because everything is gonna get better. If they do this they will be a star in a metaphorical sense and break the mold. In times like these it can mean to keep up their work while in quarantine or to light the path of positivity for the chaotic world.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZYgIrgELFw>

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"All The Heavy Lifting" by Brann Dailor, William Brent Hinds, William Kelliher, and Troy Sanders

Performed by Mastodon

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEL\\_-5dJqK8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEL_-5dJqK8)

The lyrics pasted below occur at 2:47 into the song:

*"We didn't come this far  
Just to turn around  
We didn't come this far  
Just to run away  
Just ahead  
We will hear the sound  
The sound that gives us  
A brand new day  
Just close your eyes  
And pretend that everything's fine  
Just close your eyes  
I'll tell you when..."*

These lyrics really spoke to me when I was going through a trying time in 2011 (when the album was released), and are, in my opinion, still quite pertinent.

The lyrics clearly aren't shrouded in elaborate metaphor, but *"We didn't come this far... Just to turn around"* seems to refer to our collective point in humanity's history, and clearly, there is no apparent escape to our present shared experience; that we're all in this together. Furthermore, the hope and implication is that we *will* ultimately prevail.

*"We will hear the sound... The sound that gives us a brand new day"* seems to refer to a sense of clarity, a larger perspective, hopefully gained through hindsight; that Capitalism in its current model has finally reared its ugly, and indisputably unsustainable head... One can only hope, am I right?

And, well, *"Just close your eyes... pretend everything's fine... I'll tell you when..."* seemingly alludes to the current, immediate sensations entwined with trying to make the best of the present situation, and holding on tight!

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Im so glad Ive got my own  
So glad that I can see  
My lifes a natural high  
The man can't put no thing on me

Curtis Mayfield "No Thing On Me"

<https://youtu.be/O3RACWJ5hWo>

This is song always makes me feel thankful and happy for all the opportunities I've been given throughout my life. The lyrics are simple but it does always make me feel thankful for the natural beauty in the world. Ive always been a fan of Curris Mayfield since I was a kid. I find his voice really smooth and soothing. I have a lot of songs that make me feel better though it was hard to pick. Some runner ups are You Get What You Give by the New Radicals and A Change is Gonna Come by Sam Cooke

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*So I just kept going, I just kept going*

*And hoping I'm growing near*

*Well that's good and fine*

*I spent all this time*

*Tryna find my way here*

"This Feeling" by Brittney Howard

Performed by Alabama Shakes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ub6XFO0ca5Q>

"This Feeling" is a hopeful song that outlines one person's journey of overcoming dark times. The song includes three verses, each of which focus on a different tool the singer used to overcome challenges. The first verse focuses on hope, the second on dreaming, and the third on one's ability to keep going.

The lyrics I chose were from the third verse which, as I've mentioned, speaks to one's ability to simply just keep going. While in hard times this may not often be a simple task, sometimes, it is all we can do in order to find joy again one day. In the second line, the singer expresses that as they continue to push forward through challenges, they have had faith th at as they continue to carry on, they will continually become closer to better days. The expression that comes next in the verse, "Well that's good and fine," conveys acceptance of what needed to be done to carry on, while subtly acknowledging it was not ideal, because surviving dark times rarely ever is. Yet, it is important to acknowledge these times, because hanging in there through lives challenges can often be what reveals our silver linings and moves us on to future joys, as expressed in the verse's last two lines.

The ultimate resolution of this story truly occurs in the following pre-chorus, which I'll share just for good measure, "And I've been having me a real fun time, And it feels so nice to know I'm gonna be alright."

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Tried to point my finger  
But the wind keeps blowing me around  
In circles, circles

Lucky stars in your eyes  
I am walking the cow

"Walking the Cow" by Daniel Johnston  
Performed by Daniel Johnston  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qgXYvjVNvk>

This song represents dealing with issues that seem as if they have the weight of a cow. When things become overwhelming and might seem hopeless, you need to remember the "lucky stars in your eyes" or the eyes of those you are fighting for. They are the reason why you are "walking the cow". The lines "Tried to point my finger... circles." speak to me as well because of the relatability found in the simple struggle. To hear an artist express their struggles in such a simple manner really gives a sense of humanity in the artist that brings you closer to them. I feel as if this song and this artist's vulnerability is inspiring and often restores my faith in humanity.

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"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?"

"Man In The Mirror"  
Written by: Glen Ballard & Siedah Garrett  
Produced by:  
Michael Jackson & Quincy Jones  
Performed by: Michael Jackson

<https://youtu.be/PivWY9wn5ps>

When connecting the lyrics within this song to the current tragedy that is occurring in the world, it helped me realize how many of us are blind to the fact that not everyone is as fortunate and privileged to be protected by our Health Care system as we may think. While the song does not directly discuss this exact issue, it is definitely worth mentioning in spite of our issue which is not being able to protect as many people as we should. The lyrics "Could it be really me, pretending that they're not alone?" really directed me to the truth that we tend to shy away from those who may be in need, a prominent example being that celebrities who have no symptoms of this virus are being tested rather than sparing one for someone whose life may depend on it. Ultimately, this verse is essentially a wake up call to those of us who are fortunate, in pushing us to be more aware of those who may be struggling and doing our part in helping those in need.

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Oh, just as the apocalypse finally gets prioritized  
And you cry some of the hottest tears you ever cried  
Multiplied by five  
I suppose a singer must die

"One Point Perspective" by the Arctic Monkeys  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qL4m04OyCkY>

The lyrics in the song directly relate to the current epidemic. It seems that we were far too late in trying to prevent the virus from spreading, and in doing so letting many of our citizens weeping for their loved ones who unfortunately did not make it. "Multiplied by five" reflects how this isn't just a localized issue here in the US, but rather the entire world is being affected and many other countries are going through the same pains that we are. "I suppose a singer must die" relates to how we waited until the first people started to die to try and slow the virus down and basically let them die due to our lack of diligence.

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At times, I thought we'd never make it  
But now we on our way to greatness (greatness, greatness)  
And all that ever took was patience

"DEVASTATED" by Joey Bada\$\$  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLnA25dVzrQ>

There are times where life seems to hit you from a blind spot and you think that you aren't able to move forward anymore. But, this part of the song says that despite what negative thoughts you might have, you just need to patience to make it on your way to greatness, or to better days. It's a simple chorus, but every time I hear it gives me a boost of confidence in myself and my ability to keep moving forward.

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Is there a god?  
Is he watching?  
Is she watching?  
Are they watching now?  
If not, what are we doing?  
Where are we going?  
What are we doing now?

Candles In the Sun - Miguel Pimentel  
performed by Miguel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKkS7hkB4og>

Candles in the Sun begins with a series of contemplative questions I think that is directed at humanity as a whole, beginning with—is there a god? Miguel furthermore writes is he or she watching, with further emphasis in the next line stating if they are watching now. The writer then asks "if not, what are we doing?" implying that if there is no God, what is humanity doing, where is humanity headed? These lyrics are a good series of questions to ask during these trying times. If there is no higher power, then how do we move forward as a species and take responsibility for actions and current situations.

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## Opening Verse

I remember back when I was six years old  
Daddy said the world's so cold  
There is something that you should know, uh  
You're so gorgeous, they said

Nothing's really worth your time  
But someday soon you just might find  
The truth about the world's design, oh

## Hook

To be beautiful is to be hunted  
I can't change your truth, I can't get you used to this

"19.10"

Written by Donald Glover

Performed by Childish Gambino

Donald refers to his days of youth at 6 years old in the opening line to place the opening verse as a reference of homage to his father's advice of what it means to be black. To be black is to have beauty & baggage. To be black is to find the positive when the odds are stacked against you, to be black is to live to survive rather than living with pre ordained luxury. To be black and beautiful truly is to be hunted, as Donald refers to in the hook. In addition, the mention of being incapable to get the audience used to this is a metaphor for the systematic oppression given at birth.

Personally this song truly depicts the black experience in regards to corona virus. It feels as if Corona has almost made us all hunted, it has not but at best close; where there are hunted, there will always be a hunter. My mention of feeling as if we are all hunted, is in regard to a consistent dialogue I see present within the black community towards the Chinese community in these times. I do not write this to generalize, I write from experience that is cohesive enough to even date to an example from today; but, I often find my self ostracized by the Chinese community whether small microaggressions or blatant racism it is a common design from this world I have blinded myself to. As an African American, I have never been to Africa but the Ebola outbreak in 2014 was prodigious enough to become a means of otherism, hence my African peers along with myself faced that struggle. Now the same occurs for the Chinese as people make xenophobic comments.

When I have walked down the street since I was middle school, I am no stranger to seeing a scared couple walk across the other side on the street. As goofy and comfortable in myself enough as I am, as Donald states "I can't get you used to this." I had to get used to that. Systematic oppression does not get used to you, you get used to it. I was social distance walking yesterday at golden gate park, and saw an Asian women disregard the meaning of "social distance" when she walked around a latino couple, yet the distance she placed herself from us seemed to be one that was based for the preservation of her life rather than a concern of this epidemic. Hence, this cold world Donald speaks of places the black man in social distance at birth.

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Lean on me  
When you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend  
I'll help you carry on...

For, it won't be long  
Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

Lean on Me By Bill Withers  
Performed by Bill Withers  
<https://youtu.be/f7P8wusL1Z0>

Thought this was fitting since Bill Withers sadly passed away a few days ago. Would have like to have included all of the verses which really expound on the Chorus. Just kept it to the chorus. Chorus sums It up well.  
It's pretty self explanatory. In a nutshell, we're all in this life together. We'll all make it if we're vulnerable with each other and ask for and accept each other's help.