

Date 4 / 14 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "Heal the World"Author / Director / Michael Jackson

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I first heard this song when I was browsing Michael Jackson songs on Youtube, and the title immediately caught my attention for poetic vision purposes.

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc? )

"Heal the World" is about curing the world in a sense from all of its corruption, evil, conflict, indecency, and much more. The speaker discloses his belief in the good of humanity and that, if the "care[d] enough / For the living" that they could achieve a world where "There's no need / To cry... No hurt or sorrow." He urges people to go out and to make a difference, whether it be a complete transformation of the community and people around them or simply a small change to a defect in society that they have observed. The speaker goes on to talk about all the benefits of the utopia humans could eventually reach if they put their mind to it.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

"Heal the World" pertains to the fact that humans are inherently evil and have corrupted the earth by means of convenience. Anything directed towards a good end result essentially contradicts the nature of human beings. Working for good, in other words, requires an active and intentional will that goes against what a person desires, while engaging in evil, an intrinsic and permanent characteristic of humanity, is simplistic and natural because it requires absolutely no thought or conscious energy. This unfortunately has resulted in "people dying" for unnecessary and insane reasons around the world as well as people engaging in other, delinquent and severely harmful activities. People fail to see beyond the shield, namely, the end goal that they selfishly want to acquire (wealth, property, etc), that blinds them from the benefits of peace and a world without major struggles and conflicts between members of the human race. The speaker seems to realize that there is some sort of lurking goodness that resides within members of society, and that, if they have the motivation to employ it, life on earth could essentially reach a

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

"Heal the World" contains a simple melody with relatively simple diction and construction. There is no ambiguity to the message that the song relays to its listeners because it so straightforward and easy to understand. Symbolically, healing the world means to cure it of its horrendous disease, a disease that has plagued humanity since the introduction of free will. Completely curing the world seems like a far ways away, but the speaker of this song seems to think that it can be done.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

Of course, the world would be a perfect place if everyone was to have free access to whatever they wanted without any arguments, conflicts, or clashes, if everyone was happy and existed in an eternal state of satisfaction, and if there was no pressures or responsibilities that were too demanding. The problem with this extreme concept of a utopia, however, is that people desire immediate gratification to their wants and longings, which causes them to act out in selfish and harmful ways in order to fill their gaps immediately. People don't recognize the ultimate benefit that benevolence and altruism could lead to in the future, and, because it requires a significant effort on the part of all humans, most people are often too lazy or too apathetic to even try. Moreover, "Heal the World" relates to *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley though Huxley's view of a perfect world is much more extreme than the writer's view in this Michael Jackson song. In *Brave New World*, people have left behind their needs to clash with others because they have the ability to get whatever they want whenever they want however they want it. In the perfect world depicted in this song, people would be able to live rather than simply existing without any fears or problems or clashes because everyone would be content and satisfied with what they own and have, much like a more conservative concept of that in *Brave New World*. However, this can only be achieved if people truly set their minds to it, using what goodness they have to truly make the world a better place, stripping away at its injustice and inequality. "Heal the World" is poetic because it directs people towards a state of perfection, believing not only that humans have the capacity to attain it but also that they possess an intrinsic good quality that allows them to aim at perfection in the first place.

**over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)**

