

Date 3 / 1 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "Human"Author / Director / Christina Perri

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I first heard Christina Perri's relatively new song "Human" on the radio while driving in my car back to home from tennis practice. The lyrics really struck me, and so I decided to do a log on them.

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

"Human" is about a person, the speaker, who is under the stringent expectations and conditions of another person, trying her best to cooperate with the other. The speaker makes all these claims about what she can do for the other person, such as "hold[ing] [her] breath... bit[ing] [her] tongue... hold[ing] the weight of worlds" for him and much more. Essentially, the speaker is doing all she can to satisfy the other person, forcing her to be someone completely different than her genuine, true self. Ultimately, she can only go to a certain extent of "perfection" because she's "only human / And [she] bleed[s] when [she] fall[s] down." The speaker goes on to list her limitations, pointing out the fact that her human nature is what is holding her back.

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

"Human" depicts the faults of human nature as well as the inability of mankind to attain perfection. Humans can only endure various difficulties and tasks until eventually the troubles become too overwhelming for them to handle. Humans aren't bulletproof and lifeless, but instead they possess emotions and feelings that ultimately inhibit their ability to handle and cope with an overload of endeavors. The speaker's lack of ability to transform into everything that the other person actually wants is also symbolic of the fact that humans cannot achieve ultimate perfection. No matter how diligently they try, a unanimous agreement of the truth of what constitutes perfection will never be reached because humans are inherently evil and naturally conflicted creatures. Humans are limited, not only in their pursuits but also in the purposes and motives that drive their very existences on earth.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

"Human" is a pop power ballad, or an emotional, slow-tempo song that builds to a loud and emotive chorus, built around a piano melody meant to showcase the magnificent voice of the artist, Christina Perri. Symbolically, although it is not apparent in the actual lyrics of the song but instead in the interpretation of the lyrics in the music video, the song essentially portrays a robot that can perform a multitude of functions willingly and without dissent, as long as it is programmed to do so. Nevertheless, in the music video, the robot comes to life and transforms into a human, metaphorically showing that humans are restricted to a tiny, limited capacity of perfection until it becomes a complete overload.

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

"Human" currently exists as one of my favorite pieces of music because its lyrics are entirely genuine and, more meaningfully, from the souls of all of mankind. "Human's" powerful and moving chorus always makes me feel emotionally attached to the song no matter how many times I listen to it, and so the piece is able to occupy and distract my mind whenever I run or exercise, never getting old or boring. Even though the song is relatively slow-tempo and not the upbeat style of music that is popularly listened to, the lyrics themselves and the emotion of the singer at least adds a dimension to the piece that makes it so enjoyable, real, and captivating. "Human" somewhat relates to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* in that Victor, by trying to go beyond the range of human knowledge, confronts an unpoetic realization of human nature. He comes to understand that there are limits to what humans can be meddling and experimenting with, and that they are not limitless in their pursuits and endeavors. "Human" clearly displays this theme in a much similar way. Overall, I find this song to be poetic because it does not glide over an underlying truth that may be disturbing to some people. Rather than advocating the aiming of something that isn't possible, such as perfection, "Human" gets down to the point that humans are blemished and in no way perfect creatures. The song confronts the problem or issue rather than running away from it, making it much more of an impetus for change rather than an idle and stagnant diversion of reality. Instead of portraying life as a happy, joyous and everlasting existence, like mainstream popular culture, "Human" depicts an accurate version of reality.

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