

Date 11 / 26 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "Imagine"Author / Director / John Lennon

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I have heard "Imagine" by John Lennon multiple times, including various covers and renditions, but I ultimately decided to do a log on it when Mr. Shakely proposed the song to the class.

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

"Imagine" is about a person who is literally imagining all of the things that could be entirely beneficial to humanity if they were eliminated from society. For example, the speaker asks the listener to "Imagine [that] there's no countries" and to "Imagine no possessions" because then there would be no reason to fight and no motivation to be selfish and greedy. Moreover, the speaker hopes that others can be optimists like him so that world peace can ultimately be achieved.

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

The lyrics of "Imagine" discuss the views of the optimists and the true believers in the world, who seem to think that societal perfection is feasible. The speaker of these lyrics in particular believes in a complete refusal of the world system, including its rules and regulations, in order for humans to reach a perfect state of peace and harmony. His ultimate goal is to unite all people under the influence of optimism in order to create a system of true communism, or an advanced and virtuous form of anarchy. Many people may reject communism in all forms because of its abuse in various countries, such as China and North Korea, but it doesn't mean that communism would be a bad approach to the union of humanity, especially when that is the ideal.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

"Imagine" is a rock, pop song written to enlighten people's views on humanity and the world. Because it is meant to shed light on all of the skeptics and doubters, the song begins subtly and softly until it builds into the chorus, just like humans are being transported from a state of darkness into a new state of insight and understanding.

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

"Imagine" is one of those songs that will continue to be loved by generation after generation long after John Lennon's death. The only part of the lyrics that I don't quite agree with and find confusing, however, is the fact that they promote the dissipation of religion in order to achieve a state of perfection. Although religion has been a huge problem in the Middle East in terms of ongoing conflicts and wars, all modern day religions and practices are actually quite similar in their views and beliefs. Faith in something forever greater than humans gives people a standard, or ideal, to work towards, ultimately pushing people to work for the betterment of themselves. Perhaps an assimilation of all religions rather than their destruction would aid in the pathway to perfection. Nevertheless, the lyrics of the song are extremely poetic. They encourage the neglect of all of the meaningless worries of life, such as the obtainment of possessions and the protection of borders, which only inhibit the unity. The lyrics try to get the listeners to get over themselves and to live for what is actually important in life, which is the brotherhood and progression of Man.