

Date 12 / 6 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "Man in the Mirror"Author / Director / Michael Jackson

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

Michael Jackson had obviously been a huge star in the earlier years of my life, and so I have heard and know of many of his popular songs, such as "Man in the Mirror."

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

"Man in the Mirror" begins with a man walking down the street, who sees poor and impoverished kids "With not enough to eat," and he realizes that he is being entirely selfish by simply paying no attention and walking by. He then understands that if anything is to be done to aid and nourish these helpless people then he actually has to start by changing himself, or "the man in the mirror." The speaker wants the listeners to make changes about themselves before they try and change the world.

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

"Man in the Mirror" is about transformation and change in general and the path to "make the world a better place." Because humanity is so corrupted and flawed, the speaker believes that there is no way intrinsically bad people have the ability to do anything good or beneficial to society. Rather, humans must first look within themselves and do their best to change or fix their imperfections. Only then would humanity flourish and prosper. Ultimate change does not come about by one person helping a few others or even helping a lot of people because there are still the corrupted people who are in need of nothing. Rather, for humanity to move forward as a whole, all people must change things about themselves for the better.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

"Man in the Mirror" contains elements of both pop and R&B, or rhythm and blues. In the song, the man in the mirror represents the person that ultimately needs to be changed before society can be benefited in the first place. Moreover, the mirror acts symbolically for the person to not only see his outside and apparent flaws but also to look inwards to the heart and the soul, and to notice the flaws in his character.

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

Not only is the "Man in the Mirror" catchy and memorable, but also the lyrics themselves send a motivational message to the listener, and they challenge him or her to make a difference. Through positive reinforcement and a faith in the progression of humanity, the lyrics of this song captivate and inspire its listeners in the most poetic way possible. This song directly relates to the church song we used to sing all the time at the end of mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish during school masses, entitled "Go Make a Difference." The lyrics of this song too prompt people to go out and make a change for the good of society. Of course, "Man in the Mirror" is also reminiscent of the famous quote by Mahatma Gandhi when he said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." No law or mechanism of force can ultimately change people; rather, they must work diligently to change themselves if anything is every to be accomplished. All of these sources, especially the lyrics or "Man in the Mirror," are poetic because they send an influential and empowering message to society with the belief that humans will take it into thoughtful consideration. The lyrics are completely truthful, and they poetically motivate people to be their best selves.

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