

Date 3 / 14 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "On Top of the World"Author / Director / Imagine Dragons

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

Imagine Dragons is definitely one of my favorite bands, and so I have heard all of their songs plenty of times. "On Top of the World," however, certainly stands out among their various pieces because of its uplifting, jovial tempo and message and because it is what the band is recognized for in popular culture. I was prompted to do a log on the song after hearing it at the Mental Health Summit.

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

"On Top of the World" is about a person encouraging others to take advantage of the opportunities that life offers. Ultimately, the speaker says, that "You'll never know quite when... How long of time is left for you." The speaker advocates living in the now so that people will not regret their own negligence and apathy in the future when it is too late to try and achieve a particular goal. The speaker also promotes diligence and persistence in the pursuit of one's dreams and aspirations, as he sings, "I coulda gave up then but / Then again I couldn't have 'cause / I've traveled all this way for something." Even if someone is "falling down / And it's a long way up," the speaker urges that person to get up and to try until he succeeds, because, in the end, he will get to feel like he is "on top of the world."

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

"On Top of the World" clearly resides as one of the most motivational and uplifting songs in popular culture today. The lyrics are pretty straightforward and clear, as they are about finally feeling happy and content with oneself and with life as if one has metaphorically conquered all of the pains, stresses, and problems that exist within human society. Rather than doubting oneself and seeing one's goals and aspirations as impossible or unreachable, people need to take advantage of their opportunities when they get them, as the song urges, and to give it their all until they achieve their very goals, because, ultimately, the end result will yield a much greater feeling of content and satisfaction with life than failing to try would ever beget. The song also promotes the appreciation of everything that a person has because, for the most part, it can be hard to recognize the value or significance of something until it is truly gone.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

Symbolically, the lyrics "paying my dues to the dirt" clearly stand out in this song. The song is all about accomplishing something that one has long desired and wished to achieve, maybe even since as early as childhood. In an organic metaphorical sense, a seed represents the planting of someone's goals at an incipient and emerging stage, which then require soil, water, and sunlight to grow. Once these goals and desires have been fulfilled, however, people can then "pay [their] dues to the dirt," meaning that they can finally be grateful of the circumstances, trials, and challenges that grew them to their point of accomplishment. Also in the song, the lyrics "on top of the world" clearly are not literal, but instead represent someone who has seemingly beat the system of human corruption and has somehow found meaning in his or her life.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections /

Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

"On Top of the World," though a relatively new song that has faded out of popular culture due to it being overplayed on the radio and in media, will forever remain one of my all time favorite songs by Imagine Dragons and by any other artist. Every time I hear the song, I immediately reminisce on freshman year and all of the challenges I had to face as an incoming student on an entirely new and large campus, especially considering I used to listen to the song so often last year and because I used it in many of the audio/visual projects that I had to put together as a freshman. Freshman year was obviously an initiation process for me and many others at Jesuit High School, and I know if I had not gone full throttle in trying to get involved with sports, extracurriculars, and many other aspects of student life on campus, then I would never have been nearly as content as I am as a sophomore today. So far, sophomore year has been a relatively worry free year of fun and excitement with many great friends in a variety of activities, and the fact that I faced my struggles and ambitiously pursued by goals as a freshman has greatly aided in my feeling of satisfaction and contentedness. I find the lyrics of this song as well as its musicality to be poetic not only because they are uplifting and motivational, but also because they urge people to seize the day, to take advantage of life, and to live. Life isn't about merely existing, but instead it is about finding one's own personal meaning and significance in society and in life in general, which can only happen through pure dedication and persistence towards a noble end result.