

Date 2 / 15 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "Royals"Author / Director / Lorde

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I first listened to "Royals" by Lorde during a forced attempt of my sister to get me to like the song. Because my sister is a Lorde enthusiast, I have been exposed to many of her songs, but this one particularly stood out as one with meaning and significance.

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

"Royals" is about a person, presumably a girl like Lorde herself, who comes from a relatively impoverished family and does not have access to many luxuries or amenities that may distinguish someone who is rich and has money. The speaker has "never seen a diamond in the flesh" and is "not proud of [her] address," even further suggesting her lack of wealth as well as her presence in the low-income social class in society. Nevertheless, the speaker accepts her own poverty and instead imagines that she is fortunate enough to have been born into affluence, as she sings, "We don't care, we're driving Cadillacs in our dreams." Just simply imagining wealth and nobility for her is good enough because it gives her tastes of happiness and joy that she doesn't get to experience in reality. Imagination is all she needs, because, ultimately, material goods cause people to become artificial snobs that undervalue and fail to appreciate the experiences of life themselves.

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

"Royals" promotes the idea that being wealthy may not in fact be as appealing as it seems. The people with money tend to use it in an unwise manner, buying superfluous amounts of items at exorbitant prices that may never even be used, let alone touched. In general, truly wealthy people let money go to their head, causing them to squander it on insignificant items rather than using it to promote better lifestyles for the unfortunate, malnourished, and the homeless. The song breaks down the stereotypical motive to achieve and acquire great riches by demoting and degrading the lifestyles of the wealthy, essentially saying that people get more out of being normal than they would being wealthy with all their needs and wants tended to. The people in the song that didn't necessarily come from money are fearless and outgoing nonetheless, as they do not care what others think or how others judge them because they are ultimately content with themselves and their own realities. The overall themes displayed is that wealth does not ultimately beget happiness, and that people should be happy just the way their lives are, even if they aren't

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

Symbolically, wealth and riches in this song represent a love for the fake and artificial material items in society, such as "jet planes, islands, tigers on a gold leash" and things even more ludicrous and ridiculous. These items may beget temporary satisfaction, but they could never match the contentedness that arises from true and genuine relationships with other people who love each other for who they truly are rather than for what they have. The simplicity to the song may also reflect the simple life that someone without very much money may live, carrying out daily activities and tasks without any special occasions or events.

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

Although many people don't actually listen to the meaning of the lyrics, "Royals" is still quite popular because of the easy going, smooth, and relaxing qualities that Lorde brings when she sings. As for those that do try to understand and discern the meaning and significance of the lyrics, the song has remained an outstanding hit at the top of the US charts because it is relatable in so many aspects and ways. The song not only promotes the fact that people do not have to be wealthy in order to achieve happiness, fulfillment, and even personal success in their lives, but it also urges the richest and the most powerful to use their influence and power in just and righteous ways so that they do not corrupt and degrade their own lives as well as the lives of others. Personally, I have had feelings of inadequacy because I do not possess the majority of the material items that some of my friends can afford, but I know deep inside, with the urging of this song, that I can experience happiness on an entirely new level by accepting my life as it is and trying to do something with it rather than trying to resist the state of my own existence. Embracing oneself and trying to find how one can contribute and make a difference in society will ultimately beget much more joy and satisfaction than any material item could ever offer. Because of this song, I have better learned to appreciate and value what I have rather than longing for things out of my reach, as it has helped me to realize how fortunate I am in comparison to those who are living under far worse conditions with a multitude of much more severe issues and problems. The lyrics to this song are poetic because they prove that people can make their own happiness, even if it does not seem to exist under the circumstances, and that one does not need wealth or power to achieve happiness and satisfaction. The song validates the fact that all people deserve and can achieve a state of fulfillment, even if the conditions aren't necessarily perfect or ideal.

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