

Date 3 / 29 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "We Are the World"Author / Director / USA For Africa (Supergroup)

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I found "We Are the World" on Youtube while I was browsing through inspirational and motivational pieces of music as well as the videos that accompanied them.

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

"We Are the World" directs its message to all people of the world so that they can turn their efforts and hearts towards Africa, particularly Ethiopia where hundreds of thousands of people were dying in a famine in 1983-1985. The money raised from the song directly went to feeding and relieving the starving people in Africa, considering that it was such a huge problem in the world in the 1980s and unfortunately still is today. The speaker of the song tries to get the listeners to realize that "there are people dying" and that "it's time to lend a hand to life" because all humans ultimately deserve the right to life and love by fellow humans. The song attempts to unite the world into one, claiming that humans "are the world...are the children...are the ones who make a brighter day."

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

The major theme of this song is unity, and it is readily apparent and quite obvious so that this charity group could encompass the intellectual capacities of people from all different age ranges. Although people may be unique and different in a variety of ways, they are all ultimately members of the human race, members of an international society that should want and desire fair opportunities and conditions for all so that everyone can thrive and prosper. Not one human deserves to be left behind. The song optimistically tries to bring the world together, a seemingly impractical accomplishment, and it bases its motives off an inherent optimistic faith in humanity and the purposes that drive human society. The song tries to return life on earth to the level of fairness and equality that God desired for all when he created it and humans in the first place.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

"We Are the World" has relatively simple and straightforward diction and word usage so that it can reach out to all members of human society and inspire them to change for the better. Symbolically, the song relates all members of society to children, or the ones who "can make a brighter day." This comparison not only suggests that children are the true innovators and the true transformers of the world, but it also reflects the song's belief that all humans have a potential, a spark of goodness lingering inside of them that is only waiting to manifest itself.

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 I don't necessarily listen to "We Are the World" in my free time, I know that the song has such a great purpose and reason driving its existence that I could not pass it up for poetic vision. The song presents humanity in a light that many people often fail to see because of all the corruption, evil, and indecency that plagues society on a regular basis. The lyrics seem to be coming from the point of view of a child with an optimistic faith and hope that worldwide peace and equality can ultimately be achieved. Of course, there are plenty of intrinsically good people that should have responded to the song back when it was released, but the majority of the human population fails to see the eventual benefit and reward that benevolence leaves behind. It is not surprising then why people who solely live for themselves are often despised and ridiculed by people because they do not possess the capacity to hold external, loving relationships with others. Egocentric people essentially live a life by themselves, isolated and alienated from the rest of society. On the other hand, it is the compassionate, generous, and loving people that find meaning and significance in life. They are the ones that have genuine relationships and are able to truly impact other people's lives for the better. God wanted his creation to be unified like they are in this song, helping each other grow and develop into progressively better and better people. This song is truly poetic because it is a selfless song of unity, peace and harmony, and because it presents a faith that humanity has the capacity to achieve greatness by enacting the inherent goodness that resides within them.

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