

## Lyric Analysis Activity

As we listen to each track keep the following questions in mind:

1. **What's the vibe?** How did you feel while listening to the song?
2. **What's the theme?** What do you think was the theme of the song?
3. **Can you relate?** Consider instance when you felt similar emotions discussed in the song. How did you go about coping with the emotions you felt?

Excerpt from: The Bigger Picture

Lil Baby

Protests and growin' national outcry continues over the death of George Floyd

(Section 8 just straight cooked this motherfucker up)

Last night, people protestin' in Minneapolis escalated

As demonstrators were lashed by tear gas and rubber bullets

The main message here, the main message here, the main message here

Is that they want to see those officers involved

They want to see those officers arrested

Officers arrested

(I can't breathe, I can't breathe)

Trade my 4x4 for a G63, ain't no more free Lil Steve

I gave 'em chance and chance and chance again, I even done told them please

I find it crazy the police'll shoot you and know that you dead, but still tell you to freeze

Fucked up, I seen what I seen

I guess that mean hold him down if he say he can't breathe

It's too many mothers that's grievin'

They killin' us for no reason

Been goin' on for too long to get even

Throw us in cages like dogs and hyenas

I went to court and they sent me to prison

My mama was crushed when they said I can't leave

First I was drunk, then I sobered up quick

When I heard all that time that they gave to Taleeb

He got a life sentence plus

We just some products of our environment

How the fuck they gon' blame us?

You can't fight fire with fire

I know, but at least we can turn up the flames some  
 Every colored person ain't dumb and all whites not racist  
 I be judgin' by the mind and heart, I ain't really into faces  
 Fucked up, the way that we livin' is not gettin' better, you gotta know how to survive  
 Crazy, I had to tell all of my loved ones to carry a gun when they goin' outside  
 Stare in the mirror whenever you drive  
 Overprotective, go crazy for mine  
 You gotta pay attention to the signs  
 Seem like the blind followin' the blind  
 Thinkin' 'bout everythin' that's goin' on  
 I boost security up at my home  
 I'm with my kind if they right or they wrong  
 I call him now, he'll pick up the phone  
 And it's five in the mornin', he wakin' up on it  
 Tell 'em wherever I'm at, then they comin'  
 I see blue lights, I get scared and start runnin'  
 That shit be crazy, they 'posed to protect us  
 Throw us in handcuffs and arrest us  
 While they go home at night, that shit messed up  
 Knowin' we needed help, they neglect us  
 One of them who gon' make them respect us  
 'Cause I can see in your eye that you fed up  
 Fuck around, got my shot, I won't let up  
 They know that we a problem together  
 They know that we can storm any weather

Excerpt from: Deep Reverence

Big Sean

Yeah  
 And I got pressure on me  
 Seven days a week, it's game seven on me  
 Life'll test you out, you live through that, that's testimony  
 Givin' 'em hell but how in the hell I got all these blessings on me?  
 Most of the girls I know addicted to social media  
 All this time they put in, they could've wrote encyclopedias  
 Mama said it only takes one time to fuck up your whole Wikipedia  
 And as your son, I could see the type of light that you see me in  
 After what happened to Nipsey I reached out to Kendrick  
 It wasn't even no real issues there to begin with  
 Lack of communication and wrong information from people  
 Fueled by the ego is like mixing flames with diesel  
 Energy crazy, I realize that it's a two way street

What's coming is going if it don't give you more, it drains you  
Should be a billionaire based on the time off I'm not taking  
Probably why this shit with me get crazy and we lost a baby  
And everybody around me think I'm the one  
But we all just one of ones  
And I'm walkin' out the crib, they ask me where I'm going  
I told 'em I'm goin' on another ten year run  
Niggas is banging over blocks that they don't own, thinking that's home  
Boy, you think that's where you're from?  
You don't really know where you're from  
You don't know how deep your roots is or what your ancestors had done  
So God bless all the sons and daughters who knew their history  
So they knew where to take it farther  
And all the ones that stuck with me like good barbers  
Lookin' at my life story, God's a good author  
Never was the loudest in the room, we move like ninjas  
And if it cost you peace of mind, it might be too expensive  
So I can give you everything that you want from me for free though  
Get you one shot in life, you might not be able to reload  
So advanced, I need all my advances  
Bro hit me up for cash like we didn't have the same chances  
My Dad hit me up like, why I don't live in a mansion?  
I'm tryna focus, but baby girl, keep holding my mind for ransom  
And that ain't how it's supposed to be  
This man Hov got to a B  
And his name Shawn too, I almost felt like it was me  
Damn, I realize all my setbacks were inside of me  
In high school I learned chemistry, biology  
But not how to cope with anxiety  
Or how I could feel like I'm by myself on an island  
With depression on all sides of me (damn)  
With a Glock 17 right on the side of me (hold up)  
Look, I ain't think I had the thought of suicide in me  
Until life showed me all these different sides of me  
Too many times I thought the reaper was outside for me  
And how the fuck is people that never met me that hate me?  
I wonder if they understand that I meditate daily  
And feel like my life purpose is to give inspiration  
Despite the hit songs that there's just no escaping  
That I take care of my family and beat the odds that were deadly  
You hate that? That just reflects your lack of succession  
Bless 'em, if it ain't Nipsey blue, it's Detroit blue  
This that Detroit 2, I'm bringin' it back to the hood like D boys do, gone

## My Story

Jean Grae

If I could swim a thousand lakes to bring your life back  
 I write that, but infinity can't rewind facts  
 You are divinity  
 My primitive mind was struggling  
 Just to understand the meaning of life, forgive me  
 I never told my mommy, I couldn't break her spirit  
 She always wished her daughter, extraordinary thinking  
 So I traveled alone, young, sixteen got in the habit of not stayin' at home  
 Doing the sad walk like  
 Bill Bixby, a dollar fifty  
 Trips to the hospital so that Medicaid could fix me  
 I couldn't eat sh\*\*. I fainted frequent. On cold floors and I pause and I think, keep it  
 I'm lost, my four friends know  
 And just f\*\* at the boys' apartments for rent, so  
 I'm all wishin' that it's a dream ending soon  
 I've actually erased a lot that I've been through

(Chorus)

See when the rain comes down, I know it's fallin' for me, and only for me  
 And when the pain comes around, there's nowhere else I rather would be  
 I know what I've done, Please forgive me

Now all my bitter homies sayin' that's what men do  
 Feelin' retarded for seeing partner potential  
 On top of that, the doctors telling me a heart murmur  
 I can't take it; I'm contemplating a Glock burner, a cop murderer  
 I can't be, this can't be  
 The tears streaming and I can't see, they lance me  
 And I'm passin' out, and this is just for blood  
 They had to cover the mass amounts, I've had enough  
 And you don't know what it's like in waiting rooms  
 And outside their picketing pictures could slay you  
 Their screamin' victims, and spitting till they shame you  
 I hold my head low and shiver push my way through  
 They put you in a room, where you can change into  
 Your gown and shower cap, shaking as a fiend would do  
 And that's when you think of leaving, fleeing the building and then they call you and you hear  
 the call of your children  
 They count down from ten now, you wanna stop 'em but you say it in your head, your out for the  
 cut  
 Then you wake up in another room with plenty others  
 They call it recovery; you're thinkin' we ain't mothers

And then prescription pills, written a 'scrip with chills  
An understatement, you're dressed but you're naked still  
And your brain won't think straight  
Wait - Can't finish this

(Chorus)

I kept it bottled up; my parent's found the pills  
Screaming God what have you done?  
Cried till I snotted blood, then got a gun  
My temper ran quick tho, from the thought, then the worst I was caught in the same place  
A year later, for me that's when hatred started  
My faith martyred, I've dated a father but farther, then I moved on  
Years past, the guilt's worse and it builds till your heart' smashed  
Then I miscarried 22 age, I was headed to a breakdown  
Swallowed up some pills and I laid down  
I was a failure at that too, bailed from the rap then but fate took me back in  
Sing is a tattoo my fingers attached with  
Twenty-seven with three kids that I never met  
What if I was Catholic? Wonder if they hate me?  
Thinking how their mother could ever murder?  
Well take me hell - to the depths where the brimstone chokes me constantly  
I am a monster, see  
How could I possibly correspond with God when I gave the authority to end that life?  
But it's never over, even if we have a child  
They coulda had a brother or sister or both  
I'm thinking about another life that almost got close  
Prayin' that in another time we coulda' changed posts  
If I could just reverse time, I would  
I don't know what I would do, honestly it's not good  
I'm sorry