



Comprehension questions

1. Many social and economic problems are referred to in this song. Give four of them.
2. 'I just go through life with my glasses blurred.' Explain what some listeners may think this means.
3. Look at verse 3. How does the songwriter suggest how things might change?
4. 'The next time someone's teaching why don't you get taught?' What does the songwriter mean by this?
5. In verse 12, what is 'another point' that the writer wants to express?
6. At what point of the song do you feel the mood shifts towards a more positive outlook? Use evidence from the lyrics to support your answer.
7. 'It's like that, and that's the way it is.' Does the meaning of this line change as the song progresses?
8. This song is a protest against the situation in many cities. Do you agree?



Reading activities

1

For each verse of the song, summarise the message or theme in one simple sentence or phrase.

2

Make a list of what you see to be the songwriter's key beliefs about the situation in his local area and what people can do about it.



Writing tasks

1

Write a letter to the songwriter explaining to him what you do and don't agree with in his lyrics, giving clear reasons and evidence. Identify clear ideas that you believe to be true or false, and address these in the letter.

2

Write your own song or rap about the problems or issues in the country, town or area you live in or the school you attend. Think about rhythm and rhyme, and make sure your ideas and messages come across clearly.

3

According to this song, 'if you really think about it times aren't that bad'. Do you agree with this statement? Write a balanced argument discussing either the global situation or the local situation where you live. Address both the negatives and the positives, summarising by addressing the statement.



Speak up!

Is change always a good thing?