

Feb 5 2021~ “Man in the Mirror” (Lesson 167c)

Terms/phrases in the song: ****sth** = something; **sb** = somebody.

[see <http://eflsuccess.com/common/> for common abbreviations and punctuation names]

Note: songs, poems, and sometimes films use an apostrophe (') to show missing letters or non-standard spelling, e.g.: *blowin'* (blowing), *'cause* (because), *ya'* (you), *you'* (you've). You'll also see “oral English” terms like *gonna* (going to), *wanna* (want to), and *gotta* (got to); you should never write these oral abbreviations in schoolwork)

for once in my life = I finally will do/have something I've never done/had before

make a difference = do something that makes another person's life better

make it right = change a bad situation into a good situation

blow sb's mind = amaze sb

change your ways = change your wrong behavior or attitude

take a (good) look at yourself = (closely & clearly) evaluate yourself

a washed-out dream = a dream that failed; a dream that has faded

close your heart = don't let yourself care about sb or love sb

close your mind = don't let yourself think about sb or sth



Michael Jackson (1958-2009) was a dynamic singer/songwriter/dancer, who was called “the King of Pop.” Through stage and video performances, he popularized complicated dance moves such as the *moonwalk* and the *robot*. It is said that he is the most awarded artist in the history of popular music. One of his most famous songs was **Man in the Mirror** (1988)

I'm gonna make a change for once in my life;

It's gonna feel real good, gonna make a difference, gonna make it right.

As I turn up the collar on my favorite winter coat, this wind is blowin' my mind.

I see the kids in the street with not enough to eat; who am I to be blind, pretending not to see their needs.

A summer's disregard, a broken bottle top, and one man's soul;

They follow each other on the wind, ya' know, 'cause they got nowhere to go, that's why I want you to know.

I'm starting with the man in the mirror; I'm asking him to change his ways.

And no message could have been any clearer:

If you wanna make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and then make a change.

I've been a victim of a selfish kind of love. It's time that I realize there are some with no home, not a nickel to loan. Could it be really me pretending that they're not alone?

A willow deeply scarred, somebody's broken heart, and a washed-out dream.

They follow the pattern of the wind, ya' see, 'cause they got no place to be. That's why I'm starting with me.

You gotta get it right while you' got the time, 'cause when you close your heart, then you close your mind.

With that man in the mirror, oh yeah, I'm asking him to change his ways.

No message could have been any clearer: If you wanna make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and then make a change.

Michael Jackson died on June 25, 2009 (age 50), in Los Angeles (cardiac arrest and medical complications).

source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Jackson

<https://youtu.be/ICXNWceWRB0>

“Man in the Mirror”, performed by a church choir from the film “Joyful Noise”: https://youtu.be/0S_twINGSuk

Questions:

1. This song highlights several human problems. I'll name a problem; you tell me which lyrics point to it.

a. people living in cold temperatures	e. poverty
b. hunger	f. depression
c. alcoholism	g. hopelessness
d. homelessness	
 2. Michael says: "I've been a victim of a selfish kind of love." What does this mean? In what ways are you also a "victim" of this?
 3. In the song, Michael asks himself some questions. What are they, and what does he mean?¹
 4. The basic idea of this song is: "if you want to make the world a better place, begin by making yourself (the man in the mirror) a better person." Do you agree with this idea? Explain.
 5. If you could change anything about your own appearance, personality, or abilities, what is one thing you would like to change? Why?
 6. What are 1-2 ways you want to make a difference in the lives of your **family members** and **friends**? Explain.
 7. What are 1-2 ways you want to make a difference in your **job** or in **the world**? Explain.
- If you have more time:
8. What are some reasons people might close their hearts and minds to **strangers** or **people they don't know well**?
 9. Look at the photos. Michael Jackson had plastic surgery on his face many times. What are some of the reasons why people choose to do this expensive medical procedure?
 10. If you could change any of your ways (= **habits, behavior**), what would you change, and how would you change it?

====Lower English level====
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¹ "Who am I to be blind?" "Could it be really me pretending that they're not alone?"

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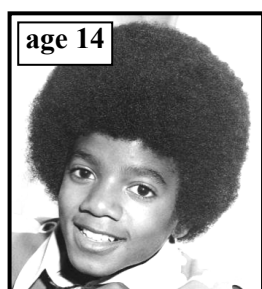
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close your heart = don't let yourself care about sb or love sb

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Michael Jackson (1958-2009) was a dynamic singer and dancer for 40 years. Because of this popularity and many awards, he was called “the King of Pop.” Here are some of the lyrics (i.e., words) to one of his most famous songs: **Man in the Mirror** (1988).

I'm gonna make a change for once in my life;

It's gonna feel real good, gonna make a difference, gonna make it right.

I've been a victim of a selfish kind of love.

It's time that I realize there are some with no home, not a nickel to loan.

Could it be really me pretending that they're not alone?

A willow deeply scarred, somebody's broken heart, and a washed-out dream.

They follow the pattern of the wind, ya' see, 'cause they got no place to be.

That's why I'm starting with me.

Can you find:

- a. homelessness
- b. poverty
- c. depression
- d. hopelessness

I'm starting with the man in the mirror; I'm asking him to change his ways.

And no message could have been any clearer:

If you wanna make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and then make a change.

You gotta get it right... 'cause when you close your heart, then you close your mind...

No message could have been any clearer:

If you wanna make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and then make a change.

Questions:

1. This song highlights several human problems. Can you find lyrics that relate to these:
 - a. homelessness
 - b. poverty
 - c. depression
 - d. hopelessness
2. Michael says: “I've been a victim of a selfish kind of love.” What does this mean? In what ways are you also a “victim” of this?
3. In the song, Michael asks himself: “Could it be really me pretending that they're not alone?” What does he mean?
4. The basic idea of this song is: “if you want to make the world a better place, begin by making yourself (the man in the mirror) a better person.” Do you agree with this idea? Explain.
5. If you could change anything about your own appearance, personality, or abilities, what is one thing you would like to change? Why?

6. What are 1-2 ways you want to make a difference? (*Perhaps in your family, community, job, or the world*) Explain.

If you have more time:

7. What are some reasons people might close their hearts and minds to **strangers** or **people they don't know well**?

8. If you could change any of your ways (= **habits, behavior**), what would you change, and how would you change it?

Michael Jackson died on June 25, 2009 (age 50), in Los Angeles (cardiac arrest and medical complications).

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These lessons were created or adapted by the staff of International Friendship Ministries, P.O. Box 12504, Columbia SC 29211; ifmusa.org; info@ifmusa.org. IFM is grateful to Kathy Williams for most of the original work. Some lessons were adapted from EFLsuccess.com (with permission). IFM makes these lessons available to our participants, but this does not imply our consent for others to publish these lessons online or in print without permission.

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