

Year 6 Reading Comprehension

'This is Me'



Comprehension Pack

This is me

"This Is Me" is a song empowering those who are ostracized by society for being different. It's a fight song for the underdog. In the scene after Jenny Lind's performance, there is an after party that the circus troupe attempts to attend, but when they ask to join, Barnum reveals his shame at being associated with them in the midst of the social elite. The Bearded Lady then bursts into song.

I am not a stranger to the dark
Hide away, they say
'Cause we don't want your broken parts
I've learned to be ashamed of all my scars
Run away, they say
No one'll love you as you are

But I won't let them break me down to dust
I know that there's a place for us
For we are glorious

When the sharpest words wanna cut me down
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out
I am brave, I am bruised
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me
Look out 'cause here I come
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum
I'm not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me

Oh-oh-oh-oh
Oh-oh-oh-oh
Oh-oh-oh-oh
Oh-oh-oh-oh
Oh-oh-oh, oh-oh-oh, oh-oh-oh, oh, oh

Another round of bullets hits my skin
Well, fire away 'cause today, I won't let the shame sink in
We are bursting through the barricades and
Reaching for the sun (we are warriors)
Yeah, that's what we've become (yeah, that's what we've become)

I won't let them break me down to dust
I know that there's a place for us
For we are glorious

When the sharpest words wanna cut me down
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out
I am brave, I am bruised
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me
Look out 'cause here I come
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum
I'm not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me

Oh-oh-oh-oh

Oh-oh-oh-oh
Oh-oh-oh-oh
Oh-oh-oh-oh
Oh-oh-oh, oh-oh-oh, oh-oh-oh, oh, oh
This is me

and I know that I deserve your love
(Oh-oh-oh-oh) 'cause there's nothing I'm not worthy of
(Oh-oh-oh, oh-oh-oh, oh-oh-oh, oh, oh)

When the sharpest words wanna cut me down
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out
This is brave, this is proof
This is who I'm meant to be, this is me
Look out 'cause here I come (look out 'cause here I come)
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum
(marching on, marching, marching on)
I'm not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me
When the sharpest words wanna cut me down
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out
I'm gonna send a flood
Gonna drown them out
Oh
This is me

Questions

- 1) What does it mean to be a stranger to the dark? (1m)
- 2) Who are 'they' mentioned in the second line? (1m)
- 3) What are her broken parts? (1m)
- 4) What does the word 'ashamed' mean? (1m)
- 5) What are her scars? (1m)
- 6) Why has she used the word scars and what effect does this have? (2m)
- 7) Why does she use the word 'us'? (1m)
- 8) What does she mean by 'send a flood'? (2m)
- 9) Do you think she is brave? Explain using evidence from the text. (3m)
- 10) Why has she used the word 'bruised' when, in the first verse, she uses 'scars'? (3m)
- 11) Why does she use the verb 'marching'? (2m)
- 12) What is meant when it says that she marches to her beat? (1m)
- 13) What are the bullets that are hitting her skin? (1m)
- 14) What effect does the word 'bullets' have? (1)
- 15) Look at the phrase 'reaching for the sun' how are the characters feeling now compared to at the start of the song? (3m)

Answers

- 1) **What does it mean to be a stranger to the dark?** She likes to hide, in the shadows.
- 2) **Who are 'they' mentioned in the second line?** Society, maybe her family.
- 3) **What are her broken parts?** The features that make her 'different'
- 4) **What does the word 'ashamed' mean?** They feel embarrassed and humiliated.
- 5) **What are her scars?** All the things that make her different (e.g. her beard).
- 6) **Why has she used the word scars?** Scars are something that last a lifetime. This creates the effect that she will always be affected by the way she'd been made to feel about her differences.
- 7) **Why does she use the word 'us'?** To show she is no longer alone and there are others who feel the same way.
- 8) **What does she mean by 'send a flood'?** She wants rid of the judgements and negativity, she's going to drown them out like a flood washes away everything.
- 9) **Do you think she is brave?** Use evidence from the text to support your answer. Use P.E.E.E.E or P.E.P.E to explain your thoughts.
- 10) **Why has she used the word bruised when in the first verse she uses scars?** Unlike scars, bruising disappears with time. It signifies a change in the attitude of the singer – the words no longer leave a lasting mark on her, but the effect of the hurt becomes more short-lived, more temporal. It speaks of resilience and strength that blossoms from within the singer.
- 11) **Why does she use the verb 'marching'?** Marching tends to be something you do in a group, like an army, and it is a very determined walk.
- 12) **Why does she march to her beat?** She is now taking control of her life and how she is seen by others.
- 13) **What are the bullets that are hitting her skin?** People's words and judgments.
- 14) **What effect does the word 'bullets' have?** It suggests that the words and actions of others are really hurtful.
- 15) **Look at the phrase 'reaching for the sun' how are the characters feeling now compared to at the start of the song?** This line traces back to the beginning of the song, in which the singer sings that she is "no stranger to the dark" and that all of the circus members have been hiding away in the shadows their whole lives. But here, instead of remaining shackled by the world around them, they choose to burst out of the darkness and into the spotlight, finally embracing who they are.