English 12 Maria Benitez Block C

**Song Analysis – Thug Life**

1. **Lyrics:**

I gotta get that bag

It's a thug life, it's a thug life

I gotta get that bag (sha-na-na-na-na-sha-ah)

It's a thug life (la-da-da-da)

It's a thug life (it's a, oh-uh-oh)

Tried to treat a man like baby

Feel the teeth sink in like rabies

Boy, you know you don't look fly

Dem gold chains turn your neck green, bye

It's different, reconciling with skeletons, I ain't know I possessed

I sought perfection out in ways I no longer accept

I understand what I neglected, times when I obsessed

I'm ready to confess, this fate is hard 'til I address

The biggest threat I'm up against is who I face in my reflection

Depression still uninvited, guess I'm always accepted

Can help but meet the feeling with the familiar embrace

But I know that it will kill me if I give in to my brain

I see the shadows inside, they touch me, tall with no eyes

They put my head in the water and I saw beautiful London

The sun reflecting off the corals, colors I can't describe

To make the darkness divine

1. **Determine the subject of the poem:**

Thug Life, a song that explores many themes except for the ones that you’d actually expect. Although the song can mean different things to everybody, here’s the way I see it. In many places in the world, especially the United States of America, there exists racial inequality. The title of the song represents the hardships given to minorities before they are even capable of growing up. In some neighbourhoods, mostly those with less money, things like gang violence and drug dealing are more prominent, therefore, setting people up to participate in these things, creating an ongoing circle. As said before, it’s possible that because of injustice, minorities, specifically black people in America, are never really treated equal to the white man. The last verse contains a theme of nothing but emotionality as Mclennon raps of his struggles with depression, demonstrating that the song also addresses social, and psychological problems.

1. **Identify the song’s narrator:**

The song’s narrators are the singers, Dom Mclennon and Bearface; Mclennon talking about his personal experiences dealing with depression and hardships given to minorities, and Bearface making references to people who wear fake gold and are left with the green residue, saying "green looks good with your envy", representing their envy to people who are able to afford the "real deal".

1. **Note the diction of the poet:**

The use of repetition, poetic devices, symbols, etc.

* Devices such as personification, imagery, rhyme, metaphors.
* Symbols such as gold chain, skeletons.

1. **Determine the tone of the song:**

The tone in the song used is that of reconciliating and understanding of their situation, in a way. As mentioned before, there is a lot of injustice going on, where minorities are given the hardships before they’re even capable of growing up. Some expressions used to represent these emotions are “I sought perfection out in ways I no longer accept I understand what I neglected, times when I obsessed, I'm ready to confess, this fate is hard 'til I address”

1. **Determine the rhythmical devices used by the poet:**

The rhyme scheme is AABBCCCC

1. **Note the use of other literary devices:**

* Personification: “It's different reconciling with skeletons I ain't know I possessed”. This part happens to be personification. He reconciles with skeletons which represent his inner demons and/or the voice in his head making him feel negatively.
* Personification: Another example of personification is when he states that “Depression still an uninvited guest I’m always accepting,” he doesn’t want to have depression, but because of it he can’t help but let it affect him. Depression has been known as something almost uncontrollable, so Mclennon saying it’s an “uninvited guest” may relate to many who have fought with depression.
* Imagery: The use of imagery as one of the lyrics says “sun reflecting off of corals” to make up for the fact that his depression is drowning him. This is the last part where Mclennon talks about how he’s dealt with depression for so long and that in a way instead of dealing with it, he’s starting to find it beautiful.
* Rhyme: This song contains a lot of rhymes in all different ways. For example, right at the beginning the artist said “Boy, you know you don't look fly, Dem gold chains turn your neck green, bye” Where endings have the sound of “y”
* Repetition: At the beginning of the sound, we see repetition of the verse “I gotta get that bag, It's a thug life, it's a thug life”

1. **Determine the values of the song:**

There were many values found in the song, but the ones that stood out the most were the social and psychological problems, and injustice to minorities, more specifically the racial inequality that still exists in the Unite States of America.