



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.

This is me

Video Link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjxugyZCfuw>

Lyrics:

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 to consider:

What does it mean to be a stranger to the dark? She likes to hide, in the shadows.

Who are 'they' mentioned in the second line? Society, maybe her family

What punctuation mark has been used to show speech? Inverted commas

What are her broken parts? The features that make her 'different'

Can these be fixed? Some things that are broken can be fixed but usually leave a reminder.

What does the word 'ashamed' mean? They feel embarrassed and humiliated

What are her scars? All the things that make her different.

Why has she used the word scars? Scars are something that last a lifetime.

Why does she use the word 'dust' when talking about breaking her down? To create something you have to crush something so much and it then just disappears into nothing.

On a scale of 1-5, how effective is the word glorious?

What is the word 'us' an example of? Pronoun

Why does she use the word 'us'? To show she is no longer alone and there are others who feel the same way.

How does this make her feel? Empowered to know she is not alone, this might be what gives her confidence to speak out.

Looking at the video, when is this film set? In the past.

How were these people treated? Why?

Do you think it is right to treat them the way they were treated? Why?

Do you think we treat people like this today? Can you think of an example?

Which word is spelt incorrectly in the first line? What should it be? Want to

What is the superlative adjective used in the first line? Sharpest

Why has she chosen that adjective? Usually, sharp objects can hurt us so she is describing the words as hurtful.

What does she mean by 'send a flood'? She wants rid of the judgements and negativity, she's going to drown them out.

What does the metaphor in the second line remind you of? Almost like flushing a toilet and getting rid of the horrible mess.

Do you think she is brave? Why?

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.

What is 'cause short for? Because

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.

Why does she march to her beat? She is now taking control of her life and how she is seen by others.

What does it mean to apologise? Say sorry

Do you think she has apologised in the past? Why? Yes because she has let others bring her down.

Why isn't she going to apologise any more? She has nothing to apologise for.

Why was she scared to be seen? They have been treated as outcasts their whole life and tried to hide in the darkness. Now they know their worth through the circus.

Do you think real bullets are hitting her skin? No

What is she using here? A metaphor

What is the metaphor? The bullets are people's words and judgments

Why has she chosen bullets for this? Bullets usually serious hurt or even kill people. She is exaggerating how hurtful and damaging people's comments are.

What word tells us this has happened before? Another

What is a barricade? a barrier to block or stop something

What is the barricade in this song? The barrier stopping the singer being who she really is
How effective is her verb choice of bursting? Very, she's not just going through the barricade she is bursting. When something bursts its usually because it can not hold anything more in - like a balloon. They have taken so much they can no longer keep it in.

Why are they reaching for the sun? 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.

Do you like this song? Why?

What is the message of this song?

On a scale of 1-5, how effectively does it convey this message? Why?

How would you describe this song in one word?

What lessons can we learn from this song today?