

Listen to the song and fill in the missing words:

"Jeremy" (from Pearl Jam's Ten)

at _____
drawing _____
of mountain tops
with him on _____
lemon yellow _____
arms raised in a V
dead lay in pools of maroon below

daddy didn't give _____
to the fact that mommy didn't care
king jeremy the _____
ruled his world

Jeremy spoke in class today
Jeremy spoke in class today

clearly I _____
pickin' on the boy
seemed a harmless little fuck
but we unleashed a _____
gnashed his _____
and bit the recess lady's breast

how could I _____
he hit me with a surprise left
my jaw left hurtin
dropped wide _____
just like the day
like the day I _____

daddy didn't give _____
and the boy was something
mommy wouldn't wear
king Jeremy the wicked
ruled his world

Jeremy spoke in class today
Jeremy spoke in class today
try to forget this...
try to erase this...
from the _____.



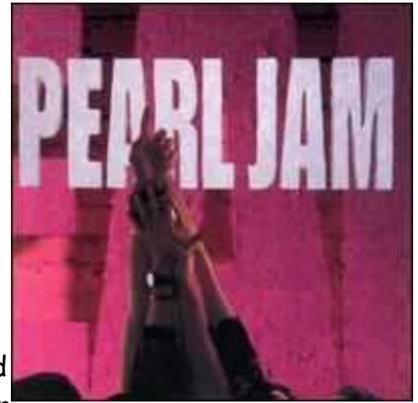
Here end the lyrics, yet - and this may surprise you - history has a well documented file of what Jeremy said in class that day. Now that you got to know Jeremy a little bit, try to predict what he said, and explain why. This can be done orally or in writing, in Dutch or in English, as you wish.

Next, read the article, and find out what Jeremy really said, and why.

Jeremy spoke in class today

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

"Jeremy" is a song by Pearl Jam, from their album *Ten*. One of their first singles, the song concerns the true story of Jeremy Wade Delle of Dallas, Texas, tormented by his peers and ignored by his parents, who shot himself in front of his high school English class on the morning of January 8, 1991. Delle, who was 16 at the time of his death, was described by schoolmates as "real quiet" and known for "acting sad"; after coming in late and being told to get an admittance slip from the school office, he returned to class holding a .357 caliber Magnum revolver. He walked to the front of the class, announced "Miss, I got what I really went for", put the barrel in his mouth and fired. The police report indicates he died instantly.



Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder said about the subject of the song: *"you kill yourself and you make a big old sacrifice and try to get your revenge. That all you're gonna end up with is a paragraph in a newspaper. [...] it does nothing ... nothing changes. The world goes on and you're gone. The best revenge is to live on and prove yourself. Be stronger than those people. And then you can come back"*.

Music

The song features prominent usage of Jeff Ament's 12-string Hamer bass guitar, adding a harmonically rich sound to the introduction and end of the recording. The song starts off with the bassline and quiet harmonic notes also on the 12 string bass, and continues in a sedate vein until after the second chorus, when densely layered guitars and vocals gradually enter. At the end the instruments gradually fade out until all that is audible is clean guitar and 12-string bass, like the intro. Both instruments play a descending minor key melody, fading out with one single note.

The video

The award-winning video, directed by Mark Pellington, was released in 1992. It portrays the verse's lyrics mostly faithfully, with footage of Vedder singing and atmospheric shots of the other band members flashing up, almost subliminally.

Jeremy (in the video) is shown running through a forest and screaming at a man and woman sitting at a dinner table. They ignore him; this is intended to show that Jeremy's parents didn't listen to him or pay attention to his troubles. As the song becomes more dense and frenetic, the video follows suit, with strobe lighting being used and Jeremy's temperament becoming more hysterical (at some points he appears to be screaming and crying at the same time). Around this time, a particularly iconic scene is shown, depicting Jeremy standing, arms raised in a V (as the lyrics describe at the song's outset), in front of a background of billowing flames. This shot is revisited a short time later, with Jeremy staring at the camera, a malevolent smirk on his face, wrapped in a US flag.

There is a scene where the kids in the classroom are saying the Pledge of Allegiance and have their hands over their hearts. For less than a second, the children have their arms raised in the

Nazi salute. Some have viewed the salute as a reference to the tradition started in the 19th century of American children raising their right hands towards the flag in what has become known as the Bellamy salute, but both the director's comments on this and the revelation of a deleted scene from the video cancel this theory out.

The final scene of the video shows Jeremy striding into class, tossing an apple to the teacher and standing before his classmates. We see him reach down and draw his arm back as he takes the gun out, then his arm appears to be weighed down; we don't actually see the gun, but it is obvious what's going on. The video then cuts to an extreme close-up on Jeremy's face from the nose up, he closes his eyes tightly and then the screen cuts to black. The next image seen is a panning shot of his blood-covered classmates, all completely still, recoiling in horror.

Video interpretation controversy and alternate footage

Because of the censorship issues with regards to MTV, director Mark Pellington was informed prior to filming the video that he could not show Jeremy putting the gun in his mouth and pulling the trigger, in his final edit of the video. As such, Pellington was forced to improvise by way of zooming the footage of Jeremy's face from the nose up with a flash of light going off as the camera quickly cuts to the still shot of Jeremy's blood soaked classmates.

This ambiguous close-up combined with the defensive posture of Jeremy's classmates and the large amount of blood on the classmates of Jeremy (splattered mainly on their chest region) led to an alternate interpretation of the video and its ending, to those who were unaware of the actual story behind the song. This alternate interpretation has Jeremy shooting his classmates, not himself, and the panning shot of the blood covered classmates, frozen in time, represents Jeremy's victims at the moment they were shot and killed.

Pellington himself is dismissive of this interpretation of the ending of the video. The director has stated that he did film the sequence where viewers see Jeremy shoot himself (footage which was used with a zooming effect, so as to remove the gun from the picture) as well as a slightly different take of the sequence where Jeremy's classmates give the Nazi salute in the classroom, in that it prominently featured a swastika-bearing Nazi flag in the background of the classroom.

Following the release of the video, lead singer Vedder, backed by the rest of the band, began boycotting videos, believing them to go against what the band was about. The band did not release another video until 1998's *Do The Evolution*.

QUESTIONS to discuss in the classroom.

- 1. What did Jeremy do?**
- 2. Why did Jeremy do this?**
- 3. Did MTV show the video clip? Why (not)?**
- 4. Is a video/song like "Jeremy" really dangerous? Why (not)?**
- 5. What is your view on violence in entertainment (movies, music, computer games etc.)**
- 6. Your teacher may decide to take a closer look at some of the vocabulary in this article.**

"Jeremy"
(Pearl Jam, Ten)

at home
drawing pictures
of mountain tops
with him on top
lemon yellow sun
arms raised in a V
dead lay in pools of maroon below

daddy didn't give attention
to the fact that mommy didn't care
king jeremy the wicked
ruled his world

Jeremy spoke in class today
Jeremy spoke in class today

clearly I remember
pickin' on the boy
seemed a harmless little fuck
but we unleashed a lion
gnashed his teeth
and bit the recess lady's breast

how could I forget
he hit me with a surprise left
my jaw left hurtin
dropped wide open
just like the day
like the day I heard

daddy didn't give affection
and the boy was something mommy wouldn't wear
king Jeremy the wicked
ruled his world

Jeremy spoke in class today
Jeremy spoke in class today
try to forget this...
try to erase this...
from the blackboard.

PEARL JAM

Even Flow

Freezin', rests his head on a pillow made of
concrete, again
Oh, Feelin' maybe he'll see a little better, set a
days, ooh yeah
Oh, hand out, faces that he sees time again
ain't that familiar, oh yeah
Oh, dark grin, he can't help, when he's happy
looks insane, oh yeah

Even flow, thoughts arrive like butterflies
Oh, he don't know, so he chases them away
Someday yet, he'll begin his life again
Life again, life again...

Kneelin', looking through the paper though he
doesn't know to read, ooh yeah
Oh, prayin', now to something that has never
showed him anything
Oh, feelin', understands the weather of the
winters on its way
Oh, ceilings, few and far between all the legal
halls of shame, yeah

Even flow, thoughts arrive like butterflies
Oh, he don't know, so he chases them away
Someday yet, he'll begin his life again
Whispering hands, gently lead him away
Him away, him away...
Yeah!

Woo...ah yeah...fuck it up...
Even flow, thoughts arrive like butterflies
Oh, he don't know, so he chases them away
Someday yet, he'll begin his life again, yeah
Oh, whispering hands, gently lead him away
Him away, him away...
Yeah!
Woo...uh huh...yeah, yeah, mommy, mommy...

Alive

Son, she said, have I got a little story for you
What you thought was your daddy was nothin'
but a...
While you were sittin' home alone at age
thirteen
Your real daddy was dyin', sorry you didn't see
him, but I'm glad we talked...

Oh i, oh, I'm still alive
Hey, i, i, oh, I'm still alive
Hey i, oh, I'm still alive
Hey...oh...

Oh, she walks slowly, across a young man's room
She said I'm ready...for you
I can't remember anything to this very day
'cept the look, the look...
Oh, you know where, now I can't see, I just
stare...

I, I'm still alive
Hey i, but, I'm still alive
Hey i, boy, I'm still alive
Hey i, i, i, I'm still alive, yeah
Ooh yeah...yeah yeah yeah...oh...oh...

Is something wrong, she said
Well of course there is
You're still alive, she said
Oh, and do I deserve to be
Is that the question
And if so...if so...who answers...who answers...

I, oh, I'm still alive
Hey i, oh, I'm still alive
Hey i, but, I'm still alive
Yeah i, ooh, I'm still alive
Yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah

Here are two other popular Pear Jam songs with very serious themes. Just enjoy listening to them, and then try to work out what they really are about.

Additional statements to discuss or write about:

Heavy Metal Rock Music and Explicit Lyrics

(source: www.mediafamily.org)

1. Most heavy metal fans are not at-risk. However troubled, at-risk youth gravitate to heavy metal music, which correlates positively with casual sex, greater drug use, suicidal thoughts, drunk driving, conflict with parents and more school problems.
2. Alienation from mainstream school culture often precedes a teen's choice of heavy metal music.
3. The angry, depressive, violent lyrics of hard rock and heavy metal music may be a risk factor for suicide and violence for those adolescents who are already depressed and alienated, suicidal, have drug, alcohol and family problems or are alienated at school.
4. According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry the troublesome lyrics of some teen music:
 - Advocate and glamorize the abuse of drugs or alcohol
 - Present suicide as a "solution"
 - Display graphic violence
 - Dwell on the occult with Satanism and human sacrifice
 - Describe harmful sexual practices, incest, and a devaluing of women

Notes on bullying:

ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR PARENTS

- * TALK to your child on a regular basis, so any problem is easier to share.
- * LISTEN to what they say - and believe it
- * ENCOURAGE your child to feel good about themselves realising that we are all different and equally important.
- * THINK back to your own childhood. How did YOU feel?
- * IF you believe your child is being, bullied or is a bully, talk to other adults at home or school and explore the options. Don't stay silent.
- * IF your child is a victim assure them that it's not their fault, and that you ARE going to do something to help.
- * BE realistic in your expectation if the school have agreed to sort it out. Ongoing problems may take time to resolve.
- * TRY to be assertive with the school, not aggressive. Without a good working relationship between parents and the school the situation could deteriorate, which won't help you or them
- * ALWAYS remember that children can't solve bullying alone. They NEED support

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- * TELL someone you can trust! A problem becomes smaller if it is shared
- * WALK away if you can. It's still hard to bully someone who won't stand still
- * STAY with a crowd. Try not to be on your own at the times you don't feel safe
- * KNOW and AVOID the "danger" areas.
- * KEEP a record of what is happening
- * DON'T be embarrassed to ask for help. We all need it sometimes.
- * TRY to support other victims
- * ASK your parents or carers to contact the school
And remember, it is NOT your fault.

For further information go to:

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org www.kidscape.org.uk www.bullying.co.uk