

Spoken word



culture key Spoken word or slam poetry → p. 152

A Read and listen

1. Read the lyrics and find the English equivalents of: a. berceau – b. se débrouiller – c. se vanter – d. harceler – e. serment – f. chagrin – g. mendiant – h. donner quelques pièces – i. situation critique.
2. Listen and pay particular attention to the rhythm, and the way words and syllables are stressed.

Listen

- Listen to the rhythm, listen to the rhyme
Listen to the clock tick tock the hands of time
Ticking, tocking, constantly revolving
Listen to the problems of the world that need solving
- Listen to the child crying in the crib
And listen to the sick act that the Daddy did
See Daddy turned his back on all of his responsibilities
Listen how Mummy copes to the best of her abilities
- Listen to the cliché rapper that's bragging
Listen to the mother who is always nagging
Her son to get up and do something with his life
Listen to the vows when ya marrying ya wife
- Listen to the scream of a mother giving birth
Listen to the sorrows of our Mother Earth
- Listen to the beggar man begging in the street
Please can you spare some change so I can get some food to eat
- Listen to the plight of the homeless
And if you listen to the pessimists everything's hopeless
Listen to your heart, listen to your soul
- Listen to your conscience, let it take control
And just listen...



Urban Species



B Going further

3. Do you find this song pessimistic or optimistic?
4. What is the singers' message?

function box

Speaking of the poets' viewpoint

- They depict: *ils décrivent*
- They point out: *ils signalent*
- They denounce
- They condemn
- They stand for: *ils sont en faveur de*
- They want to make us aware of: *ils veulent nous rendre conscients de*

Your task



Practise spoken word poetry

Each student learns a part of the song. In groups, practise spoken word, correct one another's pronunciation and get ready to perform in front of the class.

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