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Mrs. McGee

English I- Honors

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Songs About Justice Assignment: “Fast Car” by Tracy Chapman

1. I felt hope when I first heard the song because, after the bad relationship, she still had hoped to keep moving forward. Most people would probably be depressed for months but the narrator shows hope and keeps moving on with life.
2. The message of this song is to have hope and never give up. The narrator is trying to leave poverty and live a better life, while the husband is slacking off at the bar with his friends. This is shown when Chapman states, “I’ve got a job that pays all our bills. You stay out drinking late at the bar…(Chapman).”
3. The actual message of the song is hope and positivity. It's easy to see the hopelessness and despair, but the narrator of the song comes off as being strong-willed. She makes a less than ideal choice to get involved with a man with a car that is obviously not a good person, but it's evident that not only is she unhappy with the situation but doesn't see her situation as being permanent.
4. Yes, the message of the song is still relevant today, which was empowerment for people to get up and do something with their lives. Not only in school but in our community, nation, and the world.
5. “Managed to save just a little bit of money, Won't have to drive to far...(Chapman).” I can relate to these lines because I know how it is to work and try to save money for the longest time just to go somewhere, I like to go, rather it be to visit family in Florida or visit friends in Massachusetts.
6. An alternative title for the song “Fast Car” might be dark days. We say this because in the song it's talking about how Tracy Chapman had to deal with a relationship that ended badly, and there is also the reason she dropped out of school to take care of her alcoholic father and her kids.

Reflection:

This assignment is about describing a song you pick. You must include quotes to display the narrator's feeling. You also must find the deeper meaning of the song. I learned a little about Tracy Chapman and her difficulties growing up. I also learned to be courageous and have hope, as the narrator did in the song. If I were to do this again, I would find out what made Tracey Chapman write this song. The author’s background would help me know what inspired them to make the song.