

Daniel Merriweather: Change

1 The main message

Daniel Merriweather is an R&B singer and songwriter from Melbourne, Australia. His first album called 'Love & War' went to number two in the UK Album Charts in 2009.



- a) Listen to the song 'Change' from this album on the Internet. Write down any words or ideas that you hear.
- b) Now find the lyrics on the Internet. Look for the words below and then match them with their definitions. Use a dictionary if you need to.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. hose | A to give money as a gift |
| 2. to be in charge | B honour; other people look up to you |
| 3. glory | C to be responsible for something |
| 4. intuition | D something used to water grass, plants or flowers in a garden |
| 5. to donate | E what babies wear before they are old enough to use the toilet |
| 6. diaper | F feeling, not rational thinking |

- c) Read the pre-chorus and chorus. What is the main message?

2 A closer look

- a) Match the lyrics to the pictures below.

1. I saw a dried up river and
a rich man
Turning on a garden hose

2. And while the poor kill
the poor for a portion
A piece of American
society pie

3. I saw a man in a four door
truck
Complaining that the
price is high



- b) What is Daniel Merriweather trying to say about these situations? What is meant by 'American society pie'?

 **3 What do you think?**

Read the four lines below. Do you agree with these lyrics? What should people do about the problems in the world? Discuss it with a partner.

Am I just as good as a bad man
Sleeping while the rest are dying?
Or am I just as bad as a good man
Saying there's no use of trying?

4 Internet research

Find Daniel Merriweather's website on the Internet and click on 'Biography'.
What does it say about his childhood? How do you think it might have influenced (beeinflusst)
this song?

Lösung

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 1

1

a)

Individuelle Schülerlösungen

b)

1d, 2c, 3b, 4f, 5a, 6e

c)

The message is that the problems in this world aren't going to be solved unless we wake up, work together and take responsibility.

2

a)

1 – first two pictures; 2 – last picture;

3 – third picture

b)

Daniel is saying that some people are too rich and other people are too poor. Some people have enough water for their gardens while others have nothing to drink. Some people buy expensive cars but then they complain about how expensive they are to drive. Other people spend their money on guns and commit crimes so they can have what others have.

'American society pie' is a picture for the money all Americans own (or earn) together. A few people own a lot and get even more, but the majority of the people owns only a little and gets only a little. But everybody always wants to get a bigger piece.

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 2

3*Individuelle Schülerlösungen***4**

The website says Daniel didn't have an easy childhood. His parents were teachers and they didn't have much money. Daniel didn't finish high school and he got into trouble. He didn't have a lot of opportunities. Maybe that's why he sings about how easy life is for rich people and how hard it is for poor people.