

Critical Lens Analysis of Imagine

Instructions: After listening to *Imagine* by John Lennon, answer the following questions under each critical lens. Reflect on how each perspective alters your understanding of the song's message.

Historical/Biographical Lens

1. Research the historical context of "Imagine." What events or personal experiences of John Lennon might have influenced the song's message?

2. How does understanding the era (early 1970s) change your perception of the song's themes?

Marxist Lens

3. Identify elements in the lyrics that reflect on social classes and economic systems. What is the song saying about wealth and poverty?

4. How does the song critique or support the idea of a classless society?

Feminist Lens

5. Are there any aspects of the song that can be interpreted through a feminist perspective? Consider themes of equality and gender roles.

6. Does the song challenge traditional gender norms, if at all?

Psychoanalytic Lens

7. Reflect on the emotional and psychological themes in "Imagine." What can you infer about the songwriter's psyche or emotional state?

8. How do the lyrics explore concepts of hope, fear, or desire?

Cultural Studies Lens

9. How does the song reflect on cultural values and beliefs? Consider its views on nationalism, religion, and culture.

10. In what ways does the song either challenge or reinforce cultural norms and ideologies?

Reader Response

11. How did the song resonate with you personally? Did any of the critical lenses change your initial interpretation or feelings about the song?

12. Which critical lens do you find most effective in understanding the song and why?
