“Imagine” by John Lennon

Textual Analysis

“Imagine” was written by John Lennon in 1971 and it belongs to the album which has the same name. Shortly before his death, Lennon declared that much of the song’s lyrics was penned by his wife Yoko Ono.

The song belongs to the soft rock/pop genre.

Through these lyrics, John Lennon was asking people to imagine a world without differences and borders like religion, government and race; however this place where things didn’t split people didn’t exist. The song hide the violence issue we had and we still have in this world: we are surrounded by hate, war, greed and racism. He defines himself “a dreamer” because the world he’s asking people to imagine is an idealized place, which unfortunately will never see the light.

The song has no particular rhyme scheme, except for four rhymes which are “try-sky, do-too-you, only one-as one, can-man”. The componiment is arranged into five stanzas: the verses have five lines and the refrain is repeted twice.

The world that John L. sings about tells us how we should want the world to be. In the song there is a world of peace and everyone is living together as one. It was written to show us that there is another way out there to live our lives; that we don’t need to hate and kill but to learn to live in peace and harmony with each other. It’s so pleasant to imagine that everyone is sharing the world, instead of fighting for the imaginary boundaries. These are all fantasies that can never come true and he is dreamer, he knows that there are many other people like him who dream of peace, love and equality -“You, you may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one.” He hopes that someday everyone will have the same dream and so it won’t be a dream anymore, it will become reality and then we won’t be separated by our countries or beliefs and we’ll live together as one. – “I hope someday you will join us, and the world will live as one.”

The song is pretty short and it has a really easy structure, probably realized in this way, because the singer himself wanted it to be as easy as possible to understand and to be sang by every one; in fact this the most sang song by kids in schools and choir.

If people had to think about peace, they would probably sing this track, because it has a strong and deep bound with the term. The peace imagined by J. Lennon has the power to move everyone’s hearts and to make “all the people” meditate about a better life without restrictions and lack respect. The meaning of the song is very simple and will always be connect to the time people will live.