



## LESSON PLAN

### Topic: The Advantages and Disadvantages of Being Famous

#### Aims:

- To encourage young people to understand the importance of being happy
- To encourage students to think about the values of life
- To develop understanding and critical media literacy
- To develop students' speaking skills.

#### Age group

15- 19 years

#### Time

60 -75 minutes

#### Materials

- Worksheets
- Songs about fame
- Students' presentation

#### 1. Brainstorming

For 5 minutes, have a brainstorming with students – what makes a celebrity, name some famous people. Why are they famous? Are they any of your idols? Do you have idols? What makes them your idols?

Write down your ideas.

#### 2. Group work

Split students into groups and let them discuss their ideas and thoughts.

#### 3. Listen to the song and sing along.

" Songs about fame".

Work in 2 groups. Choose a song you would like to listen to: Big Time by Peter Gabriel or Life`s Been Good by Joe Walsh.



What is the message of the song? What does the song say to you?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bN4jA\\_GpYWw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bN4jA_GpYWw)

## **Big Time**

*Peter Gabriel*

Success

I'm on my way, I'm making it  
I've got to make it show, yeah  
So much larger than life  
I'M going to watch it growing

The place where I come from is a small town  
They think so small  
They use small words  
But not me

I'm smarter than that  
I worked it out  
I've been stretching my mouth  
To let those big words come right out

I've had enough, I'm getting out  
To the city, the big big city  
I'll be a big noise with all the big boys  
There's so much stuff I will own  
And I will pray to a big god  
As I kneel in the big church

Big time

I'm on my way-I'm making it  
Big time big time

I've got to make it show yeah  
Big time big time

So much larger than life

Big time

I'm going to watch it growing

Big time

My parties all have big names  
And I greet them with the widest smile  
Tell them...



### **Big Time – Peter Gabriel**



There is an old proverb that says that “success is the best revenge”. Getting out of the small town you’re in, maybe changing your accent, and getting a new life is the goal of a lot of people. And sometimes, escaping one’s origins becomes a full-time job, making sure that there are enough props in one’s life to ensure that the true root of one’s identity is not seen as having not evolved from that which they once were. This is the underlying element in this 1986 song about the shallowness of success and fame found on Peter Gabriel’s smash record SO

‘Overcompensation’ would be a great alternate title for this song, exquisitely damning of pop star hubris and greed, two watchwords of the 1980s me generation which was the degradation of baby boom idealism. This is a story of a big shot who attempts to distance himself from the small town in which he was raised, where “they think so small/they use small words/but not me; I’m smarter than that” by means of displays of fame, success, and material wealth. Yet once again, reaching the Big Time here ultimately comes down to the ridiculous, the downright childish, the juvenile “look at my circumstance!” cry of attention. This is a conclusion of fame for those of dubious self-esteem; that fame becomes little more than a means to an end, with that end getting lost in the noise of self-promotion and crass materialism.

Life’s Been Good – Joe Walsh <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p29jRMHP3G0>

### **Life's Been Good**

*Joe Walsh*

I have a mansion but forget the price  
Ain't never been there, they tell me it's nice  
I live in hotels, tear out the walls  
I have accountants, pay for it all



They say I'm crazy but I have a have a good time  
I'm just looking for clues at the scene of the crime  
Life's been good to me so far  
My Maseratti does one-eighty-five  
I lost my license, now I don't drive  
I have a limo, ride in the back  
I lock the doors in case I'm attacked  
I'm making records, my fans they can't wait  
They write me letters, tell me I'm great  
So I got me an office, gold records on the wall  
Just leave a message, maybe I'll call  
Lucky I'm sane after all I've been through  
(Everybody say I'm cool, he's cool)  
I can't complain but sometimes I still do  
Life's been...

#### **Life's Been Good – Joe Walsh**



When you really think about it, the mega-successful musician's life can very easily fall into the realm of cliché. After all, what is it that these guys are getting paid to do exactly? Make up songs, sing them, and get what? Summer homes? Maseratis that do 185? Groupies? Drugs? Gold records for wallpaper? When you reduce fame like this to its bare essentials, it sounds absurd. And that's what Joe Walsh does so brilliantly here; a song about stunted emotional development traded in for a life of leisure, perhaps half-joking, but then again perhaps not. The tune was a big radio hit in 1978, taken from Walsh's solo album **BUT SERIOUSLY, FOLKS...**

Walsh was a late joiner to the Eagles, who were massive upon his arrival as well as before it. Before that, he'd forged a reputation in James Gang, as well as in a series of concurrent solo albums. He knew a thing or two about the fame game enough to write a song that reveals



something of its true nature. And what you get in this song, underneath the vignettes of rock star excess, is that the narrator of the tune is lost and not in control of his own circumstances. Beneath the humour and the joviality of the laid back rock star is a hint that the narrator is only reacting to the forces in his life, not creating them. Fame has made him a bit player in the story of his own life.

### **3. Listen to the song and sing along.**

Read the texts: "Songs about fame" and choose a song you would like to listen to. How do you understand the song? What does the song say to you?

<https://thedeletebin.com/2008/04/07/10-songs-about-fame/>

Fame is the bitch-goddess of Western culture, a thing to be reviled as much as it is to be coveted. Our reality-TV addicted habits of recent years is but one example of people doing pretty much anything to become recognized for something, anything. Yet, from the mouths of the most famous names we can think of, we hear stories of lost identity, lost humanity, interspersed with tales of artistic and personal triumph. Is fame all it's cracked up to be? It seems to be a bit of a catch-22. Only the famous can really answer that question. And for them, the answer is a moot point. Funny old world, isn't it?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7qNlocNlf8>

The Beatles Drive my car

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WXy-h5scjk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p29jRMHP3G0>

Life's Been Good by Joe Walsh

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A0BmbiM53Q>

Blackalicious – Deception

### **4. Discussion**

- Why does everybody want to be famous?
- What is it like to be extremely famous?
- Should I want to be famous?



- I am a student. I want fame and money. What should I do for it?
- What is the evolutionary purpose behind wanting to be famous?
- What are the best perks of being famous and popular?
- Do you want to be famous?
- Who is currently the most famous person alive? Who is in the top 10?

### **5.The disadvantages of being famous.**

- Paparazzi
- No private life
- Celebrity can make you or break you
- Rumours
- Travelling all the time
- Stalkers
- You are always playing a part
- Trust issues: people use you
- You can't mess up
- Fame and Mass Popularity: What are the strangest ways people have become famous/ infamous?
- What motivated you to become a positive person?
- Which is the best way to stay motivated?

<https://reelrundown.com/celebrities/10-Reasons-Why-Being-Famous-Isnt-All-That-Great>

### **Is Fame All It's Set out to Be?**

Everyone thinks that being famous is awesome, but when I think about it, I just don't get it.

Sure, you might get rich and might not have to worry about paying your bills anymore, but like P Diddy used to say in the Puff Daddy days, "Mo' Money, Mo' Problems." No amount of money in the world would make me want to give up my privacy.

Of course there are many other perks to being a celebrity, but are any of them really worth it? Here's why I think it...



## **1. Paparazzi**

You can't get a break, ever. I can't imagine wanting to go shopping or grab a coffee and having to worry about people running after me to take pictures.

I have a friend who works in Manhattan at a high-end fashion retail store where famous people go all the time. Rihanna went recently, and she was wearing a skirt and a short shirt. She told the sales associates she felt suddenly uncomfortable in what she was wearing because there was a guy outside trying to snap pictures of her, so they gave her a sweater to put on. She thanked them, and she was very nice, but doesn't that suck? She could buy whatever she wants, but I'd rather have my privacy.

What about all these magazines we see with photos of famous women getting out of a car and their crotches are showing? I WOULD DIE if someone put a picture like that of me so everyone could see. This type of situation could easily happen to anyone, if you're wearing a skirt and the wind blows or whatever.

## **2. No Private Life**

Your life is not only yours anymore. It's everybody's, apparently.

Look at happened with Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes. Funny because I'm not one to read up on celebs, but I see it everywhere. It's actually annoying, and frankly, I could give a rat's ass if they stayed together or got divorced, but it seems like everyone in the world is infatuated with this news. And their poor daughter, who is young and doesn't understand why the whole world is talking about her mommy and daddy separating. That's sad to me. I wouldn't want to bring a child into this world for everyone to see.

## **3. Celebrity Can Make You or Break You**

Some famous people do very well with the attention, and even use it for good by helping out the disadvantaged or drawing attention to causes and charities or adopting a child from a 3rd world country.

Others, though, fall into drugs, make stupid decisions with their money, pull self-destructive antics, and do all kinds of dumb stuff that only prove that they don't deserve any attention.

## **4. Rumors**

People love to start rumors about celebrities. Sometimes it is not a big deal, but sometimes people can say some really nasty things about you and it can have a negative affect on your life, your future, and your family.

## **5. Public Fights with Other Famous People**



Look at Drake and Chris Brown supposedly fighting over Rihanna. I'm not sure what happened and frankly I don't care, but it seemed to be over a woman. Imagine being famous and having to be around people you don't want to be around, but you have to be there. That sucks. I wouldn't want to deal with that.

## **5. Traveling All the Time**

Celebrities tend to have to be away from friends and family for long periods of time. I would think it's a lonely world for a celebrity.

## **6. Stalkers**

Most of us know about Whitney Houston's stalkers— one of them was harassing her, calling her offices, sending her flowers, claiming to be her brother—who ended up getting arrested for possession of weapons. Imagine what could have happened if her team hadn't noticed he was suspicious. Also Selena, one of the best-selling Latin stars of the 90s, was murdered at the young age of 23 by the president of her fan club who was also her so-called "friend."

Being famous means you have to watch your back.

## **7. You're Always Playing a Part**

I don't think I have to name names here, but I will: Kim Kardashian = retarded, Kanye West = moron, Tara Reid = trashy, Lindsay Lohan = screw up. You get my drift.

## **8. Trust Issues: People Use You**

You don't know who your real friends are. You don't know who to trust, or who's going to be the next one to reach out to the gossip magazines and spill your beans. You don't even know who your real lover is.

## **9. You Can't Mess Up**

Fame is fickle. If you mess up, your fans may lose respect for you in a heartbeat, you may not get the roles you want anymore, and others can replace you. Don't make the mistake of believing your fame is the result of some unique quality only you possess: You are always replaceable.

## **10 celebrities who hate being famous**

<http://www.ranker.com/list/celebrities-who-hate-being-famous/swiperight>

A video: Fame, Blessing? Or Curse?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JrSlpQz89Q>





### **Discussion, reflexion.**

What do you think? Would you want to be famous?

Do you think it's easy to live as a famous person?

What is their children's life like?

Is it dangerous to be on big stages? Why?

### **Resources**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bN4jA\\_GpYWw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bN4jA_GpYWw)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p29jRMHP3G0>
- <https://thedeletebin.com/2008/04/07/10-songs-about-fame/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7qNlocNif8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WXy-h5sejk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p29jRMHP3G0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A0BmbiM53Q>
- <https://reelrundown.com/celebrities/10-Reasons-Why-Being-Famous-Isnt-All-That-Great>
- <http://www.ranker.com/list/celebrities-who-hate-being-famous/swiperight>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JrSIpQz89Q>