Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Fetbroth

**Song Analysis Project** (110 points)

**English I/II**

**Why:** One of the most important parts of being able to successfully read and analyze any text is being able to find and use evidence from that text to back up what you think about it. One of the coolest things about reading is there usually isn’t one right way to think about a text, which means there really isn’t a wrong way to think about a text. One person could read something and have one opinion, while the other person could read that same thing and have a completely different opinion. Successful readers don’t just read something and figure out how they think about it; they also can explain *WHY* they think what they think by pointing to certain words, phrases, and parts of the story that made them think what they think. This is called finding **textual** **evidence.** Reading isn’t just about what you think, it’s about proving why you think it!

**What:** Find the lyrics to either your favorite song or a song you think is very meaningful. Listen to your favorite song and read through the lyrics a few times.

Think about these things while you read:

* What is the song basically about?

In other words, what is a **SUMMARY** of the song?

* Why do you think the author of the song wrote the song? What was he or she trying to do?

This is called the **AUTHOR’S PURPOSE**!

* What is the *mood* or *feeling* you are getting as you read? Is it very positive and upbeat? Dark and depressing? Angry and aggressive?

How do you feel when you are listening to the song?

This is the **TONE** of the song!

* What message do you think the author of the song is trying to send? What was he or she trying to tell or teach someone listening to the song?

This is the **THEME** of the song!

After you’ve read through the song a few times and thought about the questions above, go back through the lyrics and **annotate** them, underlining words or phrases you think are really important, taking notes about what different parts make you think or feel (does a certain word or phrase give the song its tone? Does a certain word or phrase point to what you think the theme of the song is?), and even circling parts that you still find confusing (which is totally fine!).

What you are to turn in:

* A copy of the lyrics to the song, with your **annotations** (15 points)
* A 1-page, double-spaced written explanation of your song that includes all of the following:

1. The title of the song and artist name (5 points)

2. A brief, 1-2 sentence **summary** of the song (what the song is about) (10 points)

2. 2-3 sentences explaining what you think the **author’s purpose**

was in writing this song, with at least two words or phrases from the

song that you think point to why the author wrote it (20 points)

3. 1-2 sentences explaining what you think the **tone** of the song is,

with at least two words or phrases from the song that you think give

the song that tone (20 points)

4. 2-3 sentences explaining what you think the **theme** of this song

is, with at least two words or phrases from the song that you think

give it that tone (20 points)

You will then give a brief presentation to the class (no more than 2-3 minutes) about your song. During this presentation, it is your job to PROVE to the class what you think the tone, author’s purpose and theme is for this song by pointing to the words, phrases and parts of the song that give it that meaning for you (20 points).

You are allowed to type up your response and use the internet to look up your lyrics. However, you must do your annotations by hand.

**When:** Your annotations and 1-page written response are due halfway through class on Tuesday, September 21st. You will give your presentation during the second half of class.

You will have more than an entire class period to work on this, so be sure to use your time wisely.

**Remember, it’s not about what you think, but WHY you think it!**

Good luck!

Name: Ms. Fetbroth Date: September 21, 2010

Period: 2nd Ms. Fetbroth

“One Day”

by Matisyahu

Sometimes I lay

under the moon,

and thank God I'm breathing.

Then I pray

don't take me soon,

cause I’m here for a reason.

Sometimes in my tears I drown,

but I never let it get me down.

So when negativity surrounds,

I know some day it'll all turn around

because..

All my live I've been waiting for,

I've been praying for,

for the people to say

that we don’t wanna fight no more,

there’ll be no more wars,

and our children will play.

One day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day.

It's not about

win or lose,

because we all lose

when they feed on the souls of the innocent,

blood drenched pavement,

keep on moving though the waters stay raging.

In this maze you can lose your way (your way),

it might drive you crazy, but don’t let it faze you no way (no way).

Sometimes in my tears I drown,

but I never let it get me down.

So when negativity surrounds

I know some day it'll all turn around

because..

All my live I've been waiting for,

I've been praying for,

for the people to say

that we don’t wanna fight no more,

there’ll be no more wars,

and our children will play.

One day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day.

One day this all will change,

treat people the same,

stop with the violence,

down with the hate.

One day we'll all be free

and proud to be

under the same sun

singing songs of freedom like,

one day, one day.

All my live I've been waiting for,

I've been praying for,

for the people to say

that we don’t wanna fight no more,

there’ll be no more wars,

and our children will play.

One day, one day, one day, one day, one day, one day.

The song “One Day” by Matisyahu is about his hope that some day the world will change and all of the negative things, such as hate, war and killing, will be replaced by freedom and happiness. The song is all about his frustration and disappointment with what he sees around, but about his certainty that some day the world will be a better place to live in.

I think Matisyahu wrote this song for two reasons. First, I think he wanted to show people what is wrong with the world. He talks about the wars that have happened, and the “blood-drenched pavement,” and how people have “fed on the souls of the innocent.” He talks about the hate and the violence that we see, and makes it clear that he thinks this is not the way to live. He says, “we all lose” when these things happen, and says “**stop** with the violence, **down** with the hate.” Secondly, I think he wanted to show people what the world should and could look like if we stop acting the way we have. He talks about people no longer wanting to fight, and there being “no more wars,” and our children playing. He talks about everyone being free, and proud, and living altogether. Matisyahu’s purpose in this song was to show people not only that the world has to change, but that it can and must change and what it can look like.

The tone of the song is very hopeful. The phrase that he repeats over and over throughout the song is “one day,” and this shows me that he truly believes the world will not always be as violent and unfair as it is now. The song also talks a lot about not feeling trapped by the negative parts of the world, because some day it will be different, which shows me how much hope Matisyahu has. For example, he writes, “So when negativity surrounds, I know someday it’ll all turn around.” This shows me how much he believes in change, and gives me hope that it will happen. He also writes, “it might drive you crazy, but don’t let it faze you no way.” He’s telling people that as much as the depressing parts of the world might upset you, you can’t let them bring you down because things will change. The song is also about what he thinks will be different about the world, which shows me how much hope he has that this will happen. The song talks about the “hate,” “blood,” “violence,” and “fighting,” but then talks about people being free and proud, “singing songs of freedom,” and how “our children will play.” By replacing these sad, dark images with very positive, peaceful images, he gives people hope that these changes will happen.

I think the theme of this song is that we can change things if we truly believe in them. The repetition of the phrases “one day” and “some day” show people that can change can really happen, and show Matisyahu’s belief that change will happen. He claims, “I am here for a reason,” which shows he thinks part of his purpose in life is to help make the world a better place. He tells people to “keep on moving though the waters stay raging,” and claims that even when things are hard, he never lets it get him down. The song explains why things must change by talking about how terrible war and hate and violence is, and how important freedom and pride and peace is, but more importantly sends the message that change CAN happen if we are strong and don’t give up. Matisyahu is telling people to keep fighting for what they know is right and important.