WORKING CLASS HERO

Joey & MinSun
Working Class Hero - John Lennon
Background

◆ **Artist:** John Lennon

John Lennon is an English musician and singer-songwriter.

◆ **Date released:** 11 December, 1970

◆ **What is the song about? (Briefly)**

This song is about working class individuals being processed into the middle classes. It tells a story of someone growing up in the working class.

◆ **Thesis Statement:** The song, "Working Class Hero" is about how the capitalism rule over the proletariat and how the working class wants freedom and human equality.
Song

Genre: Folk blues

Tone and style: Similar to that of Masters of War by Bob Dylan, a known influence of Lennon's

What is the song about?
The song is about communism, capitalism and examination of society based in Marxist philosophies. Basically explaining that the capitalists (the rich) exploit the proletariat (the poor). The folks on the hill are the rich who exploit the poor. The hill represents a distribution of wealth. There are less people on the top of the hill, approximately 10% of the world's people have a majority of wealth in this world, 90% are percentile. The speaker is the communism and they try to persuade the people underclass. The situation is about revolution against the government to ask for equality of human rights.
Analysis

Figurative Language

- **Sarcasm**: "Till you're so fucking crazy you can't follow the rules" Even though the working class tried so hard the communities can never accept them.

- **Sarcasm**: "But you're still a fucking peasants as far as I can see" Nobody appreciates working class performance in life because they will always just be a foreigner.

- **Personification & Allusion**: "Folks on the hill" meaning rich people or government
Literary Techniques

Symbols:
- Working class hero: It is repeated many times in the song. It represents the suppressed lower people who wants freedom and more respect
- Pain: Disrespect and looking down of the others, discrimination
- Rule: The forcing of the higher class
- Folks on the hill: The rich people that represents the governments
- Hill: The distribution of the wealth
- Religion, sex, TV: Things that are not important or wrong

Overstatement:
"Keep you doped with religion and sex and TV." : A mix-up between right and wrong / moral and immoral.
Understatement:
- "As soon as you're born they make you feel small.": When they were born as a working class, they already labeled as minority/not important person
- "Till the pain is so big you feel nothing at all.": Because the society gap is too painful but common until they don't feel that it is a matter at all.
- "They hate you if you're clever and they despise a fool.": When you're clever, they are jealous and when you're a fool, they laugh at you.
- "When you can't really function you're so full of fear." A small mistake can lead to a disaster
- "And you think you're so clever and classless and free.": There's no chance for the working class to get their freedom.

Irony:
"If you want to be a hero well just follow me": means if you want to be a better person, then do what communist does instead of being yourself.
Prosody

◆ Assonance:
  Assonance can be found in paragraph 5, which states: Still, Kill, Hill

Likes and Dislikes

◆ Likes and Dislikes?
  I like how he elaborate the working class weakness and then at the end He asked them to join his politics. This is a very good promotion for the politics. I dislike him using the harsh and straightforward words that are inappropriate for children.
Literature or not?
I think this song is considered a literature, even though it doesn't have an excellent choice of words and expression, because he included the slang ("F word" 2 times in the song) that lead to lawsuits and was banned to be aired on the radio by some countries. But, it talks about a particular culture or people and gives a particular information. So, it can be categorized as a literature piece.

What is the subject of the song?
The poem subject is about working class people who try so hard in their life to achieve what the rich people have, but the rich people has already stereotyped them as peasants. The theme is to persuade or to ask the working class people to join communism for a better life, and this matter was a universal issue in the 1940 - 1960's. I think this poem has a simple and straightforward words that can touch the feelings of the listeners at that time. No wonder in that era, the black people or working class people tried to get their freedom or rights.
Work Cited


