

## **BEFORE YOU CONTINUE**

Please note that we have discussed in this English class that when working with explicit language, we will respect the artist's talent and word choice. This means we can read, and listen to music and poetry that may include explicit topics and language. However, we must make sure that when we quote or discuss the lyrics that we do not speak inappropriately in class nor direct any of this explicit language to our peers or other people, culture, groups etc.

Remember our previous lesson: **Words have no meaning without context and some words do not belong in a specific space or community.** Therefore by analyzing this text we are not promoting any of the images or topics that are seen in the surface level.

Also note that if this assignment, like anything we do in class, causes or triggers any anxiety you feel unsafe, please know that you have every right to opt out. The teacher can easily provide an alternative assignment, and this will not affect your mark or standing in the class in any way.

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# Backseat Freestyle: Song Analysis

Listen and read through the lyrics by Kendrick Lamar (*Don't forget to do your Title for TPCASTT before you start*)

## Backseat Freestyle by Kendrick Lamar

Uh, Martin had a dream  
Martin had a dream  
Kendrick have a dream

All my life I want money and  
power  
Respect my mind or die from  
lead shower  
I pray my dick get big as the  
Eiffel Tower  
So I can fuck the world for  
seventy-two hours

Goddamn I feel amazing,  
damn I'm in the matrix  
My mind is living on cloud nine  
and this nine is never on vacation  
Start up that Maserati and VROOM VROOM! I'm racing  
Poppin' pills in the lobby and I pray they don't find her naked

And I pray you niggas is hatin', shooters go after Judas  
Jesus Christ if I live life on my knees, ain't no need to do this  
Park it in front of Lueders, next to that Church's Chicken  
All you pussies is losers, all my niggas is winners, screaming

All my life I want money and power  
Respect my mind or die from lead shower  
I pray my dick get big as the Eiffel Tower  
So I can fuck the world for seventy-two hours

Goddamn I got bitches (okay!) damn I got bitches (okay!)

Damn I got bitches, wifey, girlfriend and mistress  
All my life I want money and power  
Respect my mind or die from lead showers



I've got twenty-five lighters on my dresser, yessir  
Put fire to that ass, body cast on a stretcher  
And her body got that ass that a ruler couldn't measure  
And it make me cum fast but I never get embarrassed

And I recognize you have what I've been wanting since that record  
That Adina Howard had pop it fast to impress her  
She rollin' I'm holding my scrotum and posing  
This voice here is golden so fuck y'all I goes in and

All my life I want money and power  
Respect my mind or die from lead shower  
I pray my dick get big as the Eiffel Tower  
So I can fuck the world for seventy two hours

Damn I got bitches, damn I got bitches  
Damn I got bitches, wifey, girlfriend and mistress

All my life I want money and power  
Respect my mind or nigga

It's go time  
I roll in dough with a good grind  
And I run at ho with a baton  
That's a relay race with a bouquet  
They say, "K, you goin' marry mines?"

Beeotch! (no way) Beeotch! (no way)  
Beeotch! (no way) Beeotch!

Okay, I'm never living life confined  
It's a failure even if I'm blind  
I can tell ya who what when where how?  
To sell ya game right on time

Beeotch! (go play) Beeotch! (go play)  
Beeotch! (go play) Beeotch!

I look like OJ, killing everything from pussy to a mothafuckin' Hit-Boy beat  
She pussy poppin' and I got options like an audible, I be  
C-O-M-P-T-O-N, I win then ball at your defeat  
C-O-M-P-T-O-N, my city mobbin' in the street, yellin'

All my life I want money and power

Respect my mind or die from lead shower  
I pray my dick get big as the Eiffel Tower  
So I can fuck the world for seventy two hours

Goddamn I got bitches (okay!) damn I got bitches (okay!)  
Damn I got bitches, wifey, girlfriend and mistress  
All my life I want money and power

Respect my mind or die from lead showers (let it run Ali)  
Martin had a dream  
Martin had a dream  
Kendrick have a dream

## Part 1 Assignment

Provide the TPCASTT for this speech by answering the questions below.

**T** -What are the first things that come up when you think “Backseat Freestyle”? Think of denotation of both words.

**P** -What are his main topics? List a few main topics that he covers in this song.

**C** Look for metaphors, similes and other connotations. In chronological order, copy and paste quotes and describe the significance of each one. Please fill in at least 5. (Please remember that you have a choice on which line or word you analyze, choose what you feel like you are able to do).

Connotation Used <i>(metaphor, simile, personification etc.)</i>	Quote from the Song	Significance of this connotation. Why did he use this?

Allusions

*Find at least three allusions in this song. Research what Kendrick Lamar is alluding to.*

Quote from Song	Allusion Connection & Why

**A** -What is this tone of voice like?

What is the general mood of the song?

What does he get the crowd/listeners to feel?

How does he do this?

**S** -Are there any pauses and shifts in his speech?

If so, when are they and why does he use this? (Provide a quote if applicable)

**T** -Talk about the significance of the title and how it relates to the symbolism/metaphors used throughout the song.

**T** --What is his main message?

What are the themes and topics addressed in this song?

How did he use these lyrics to express these messages?

Why use this format? (Hyperbole, exaggeration of these topics)

Why start the song with “Martin had a dream”?

Can you relate any of these messages back to “I Have a Dream” speech by Martin Luther King Jr?

How does this song tie back to Langston Hughes’ “Harlem”? And the “dream deferred”?

What does the word Satire mean? How does Kendrick use satire?

**Part 2 Assignment:**

1. Use the argument: **Words have no meaning without context.**
2. Provide evidence by using what you have learnt from the course so far.
3. Have an Explanation how your evidence matches the argument. (minimum of three sentences for your explanation)