

Simon's 6.3 Novel Portfolio: Songs

Character	
<p>Song Title: "About As Helpful As You Can Be Without Being Any Help At All"</p> <p>Artist: Dan Mangan</p> <p>URL for this song: http://tinyurl.com/d6ga48a</p> <p>My Notes and Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Song is about being wild and careless, and paying the price for not being careful - Talks about being "thrown in a boat", which is like Jack being "thrown" onto the boat to smuggle hash with—in the song it's talked about like it is a bad decision or a last minute choice. - The part about hungry sharks swimming below the waves in the song made me think about Jack and how he's kind of young and alone in a dangerous world. - Jack is independent and free, but he's around some really bad guys—the hungry sharks (smugglers, drugs, and bad friends) - No one around to help him make smarter decisions. In the song, the singer puts his legs in the water even though there are sharks—he chooses to take a dumb risk and no one tells him it is a bad idea. - In last part of song the speaker "made a torch" of themselves—metaphor for a bad decision going really wrong (a flaming torch is like a mistake and its consequences happening). It made me think of that phrase "crash and burn", which is what Jack ended up doing because he was so careless. 	
Climax or Conflict	
<p>Song Title: "I Fought the Law (and the Law Won)"</p> <p>Artist: The Clash</p> <p>URL for this song: http://tinyurl.com/cdokqv5</p> <p>My Notes and Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the climax Hamilton and Jack are confronted by the FBI in the lobby of the Chelsea. - Hamilton is arrested, and Jack escapes the city back to the King's Court hotel to hide in his old room before his dad tells him to go back. - These parts, and the time before the court sentencing are the most intense parts in the novel, where Jack realizes he's really screwed up. He is very anxious and upset. - events are all fast paced and linked together - Chose the Clash song, because Jack fought the law with his choice to help smuggle the hash from St. Croix to New York, and he definitely didn't win. - Right before they're busted, Jack is incredibly happy. He had just gotten his cut of the money, and everything looked great—but it all comes crashing down. The Law wins. - The FBI knew they were smuggling the drugs even as they left St. Croix, and just followed the boat - This song is fairly fast paced, which I thought fit the mood of Jack running away from the Hotel Chelsea and getting on the train. - Song is also kind of repetitive, which suits Jack's headspace—he can't stop thinking about going to jail, and why he has to go to jail, or how he could avoid it, over and over. 	

dangerous

Are you saying here that the hungry sharks in the song are like the bad influences surrounding Jack? Please explain.

The person the song is featuring is not always the singer. Sometimes songs contain made-up characters, as do novels, to deliver specific messages. Similar to poetry, the main "voice" in a song can be referred to as "the speaker".

Character Growth or Conflict Resolution

Song Title: *"The Cave"*

Artist: *Mumford & Sons*

URL for this song: <http://tinyurl.com/yaks4o2>

My Notes and Observations:

- *When Jack leaves prison, he is going to school to be a writer. Writing and reading kept him happy or hopeful in jail. After jail, he is happy for freedom and the opportunity to pursue his dream. He decides to have more control over his choices and behaviour.*
- *"The Cave" is about a guy thinking about the future after a hardship and what people go through as they leave the past behind them.*
- *In jail, Jack has similar feelings to the guy in the song: changing his ways, being hopeful for the future, and having confidence in himself, all while not forgetting that he is the one to blame for the hard times.*



About As Helpful As
You Can Be Without
Being Any Help At All



The Darkest One



I fought the Law
and the Law Won



Nail in my Coffin



The Cave

***Attach song lyrics to this page.**

- *My novel: **Hole in My Life** by Jack Gantos.*
- *Main character is Jack—he's a teenager (19 years old)*
- *Restless and sometimes wild or careless (drinks, does drugs)*
- *Cowardly sometimes (but sometimes brave—or is it stupid?)*
- *very smart, wants to be a writer, wants to go to school (ambitious)*
- *Loves to read*
- *Very independent—takes care of himself, doesn't need parents*
- *Nice and respectful to others but easily fooled or influenced by others (Hamilton, Rik, and even his "friend" Tim Scanlon)*

Ideas for character songs I have:

"About As Helpful As You Can Be Without Being Any Help At All" by Dan Mangan: <http://tinyurl.com/d6ga48a>

"The Darkest One" by Tragically Hip: <http://tinyurl.com/bo4ss3y>

Ideas for Climax songs:

"I fought the Law and the Law Won" by the Clash: <http://tinyurl.com/cdokqv5>

"Nail in my Coffin" by the Kills: <http://tinyurl.com/d2g68vn>

Conflict/Resolution

- *Early release to parole, because Jack applies to a writing college and been accepted.*
- *The Cave; Mumford & Sons: <http://tinyurl.com/yaks4o2>*

Simon's 6.3 Novel Portfolio: Themes

1. **Write** at least **three** statements that you think the author of the novel is making about life or humanity. These are your predictions of theme in your novel.

- *Split-second decisions can come with huge consequences*

- Trusting other people too easily can blow up in your face

- Setbacks in life can be small or huge, but having hope can help

- Confidence can influence a decision to be good or bad

- Overcoming challenges and facing risks is difficult, but can be rewarding in the end if we have hope and focus or motivation

- Accept others for who they are, flaws and all

Simon's 6.3 Novel Portfolio: Themes (continued)

2. **Attach articles** you find relevant to each of these themes. **Identify** each specific theme you predicted and include the title and bibliographical information of the article.

Theme 1

Split-second decisions can come with huge consequences.

Article Title

"UVU student stuck in Canada after making bad split-second decision"

Source (Cite bibliographical information for this resource here.)

Vo-Duc, Vivian, "UVU student stuck in Canada after making bad split-second decision." August 17, 2012. Deseret News, Salt Lake City, Utah. USA.

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/bledcdf>

Theme 2

Trusting other people too easily can blow up in your face

Article Title

"Millions Lost as Edmonton Investment Fund Collapses"

Source (Cite bibliographical information for this resource here.)

CBC News, "Millions Lost as Edmonton Investment Fund Collapses." January 16, 2013. CBC News, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/aatp54x>

Theme 3

Overcoming challenges and facing risks is difficult, but can be rewarding in the end

Article Title

"Peaceful Aboriginal Protests, Temporary Blockades Crop Up Across Canada"

Source (Cite bibliographical information for this resource here.)

The Canadian Press, "Peaceful Aboriginal Protests, Temporary Blockades Crop Up Across Canada." January 14, 2013. Edmonton Journal News, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/ac77pmx>

Simon's 6.3 Novel Portfolio: Themes (continued)

3. Explain the connection between the themes of your attached article and the novel you studied. How are they similar? How are they different? **Include** your observations and notes below, unless you make notes directly on the article.

Theme 1 Notes:

- Student from USA on a short holiday impulsively decided to cross the border with an illegal firearm, thinking it wouldn't be a big deal
- Was arrested right away in Canada, and isn't allowed to go home until his first trial
- Could take 6 months before this trial happens
- Not going to **be able to** his second semester of college at home, even though he paid the money to go
- This is like Jack making the quick decision to smuggle drugs on the sailboat.
- Didn't think about consequences and impact they could have on his future (going to jail when he could have been going to school).

Missing a word here—Will he not be able to attend or go to his college classes?

Theme 2 Notes:

- Many of the investors trusted the man a lot because of his reputation and experience in finances, but it now turns out none of the investors will see their money again as the man is no longer even alive to answer any questions or be responsible.
- Jack trusted Hamilton and Rik way too much. The experience he had with Tim Scanlon should have been a warning that he trusts people too much, but Tim made off with Jack's money, and Jack never saw it again, just like the people with the financial manager they trusted too much.
- Jack showed poor judgement by trusting any of these guys while knowing so little about them, and it got him in a lot of trouble as a result (especially since Rik was the "snitch")
- the people trusting this Investment manager with so much money should have investigated the man a lot more to have a better idea of whether the man was trustworthy and knew what he was doing. Now the money is gone forever, and nothing more can be done.

Theme 3 Notes:

- This article shows that the process of the protests has been rewarding for the protestors, because they are definitely getting people's **attention!**
- The people hope their actions will bring about change even if their actions are risky (protesting across roadways and even train tracks is dangerous). Meeting other people in protests who feel the same about the issues and the attention the protests are getting in the news has been good for their cause.
- Protests are risky, but getting more attention for the issues pays off, despite the fact they are putting their lives or health at risk to accomplish something- this reminds me of Jack's time in jail.
- **Jail is a great risk and challenge for Jack to face and overcome.** He works hard at thinking about what he hopes for in his future to keep going every day. Jack's patience in jail and hope about the future eventually pay off, even though jail is a dark and scary place.

What were they protesting? Give some more details.

While you are right, protesting an issue and going to jail are both risky endeavors, recall that Jack does not "choose" to take this risk—going to jail is a consequence of his own making (he chose to break the law). The protestors are choosing to take the risk to protest and they are not protesting because they have to by law.

Simon's 6.3 Novel Portfolio: Explanation

Novel Portfolio: Explanation

Novel: *Hole in My Life* by Jack Gantos

Film: "127 Hours" by Danny Boyle

By Simon
English 20-2 @ADLC



The theme in question is...

Overcoming challenges and facing risks is difficult, but can be rewarding in the end.

This theme is in the novel "Hole in My Life" by Jack Gantos, and I think it is also the theme in the movie "127 Hours" by Danny Boyle.



Simon, can you explain how you see the theme in each text before you move on to clarify similarities or differences between the two texts?

Simon's 6.3 Novel Portfolio: Explanation (continued)



The idea of this picture is that it's kids are usually impulsive, not young men. Jack and Aron make immature choices.

Simon, what information do you have to support your knowledge that Jack and Aron made immature choices? Did they make these choices with the intent of hurting others or getting in trouble?

Similarities

- Both boys make a big mistake based on a quick decision that puts them in a bad situation.
 - **Example:** Jack joins Rik and Hamilton on the boat to smuggle drugs, not thinking about the choice or its consequences, for \$10,000. He doesn't tell his parents.
 - **Example:** Aron decides to go to the Canyon in the Moab desert and canyoneer for a day by himself, but he doesn't tell anyone where he is going and when he will be back.
- Both were being selfish, and they were not thinking about the consequences of their actions.
 - **Example:** Jack was thinking about how he could pay his way easily to college and have an adventure at the same time.
 - **Example:** Aron blows off hanging out with his sister to work on a project for the family, so that he can go do his own thing by himself – focuses on himself first.
- Both survive their ordeals, and decide not to be risky in the future with their lives.
 - **Example:** Jack applies for college from prison and gets in. He's given parole to attend. He finds a place to live and a job, and focuses on doing good with his life and achieving his dreams. He doesn't go dig up the hash in Central Park to sell it, and avoids drug use or bad crowds.
 - **Example:** Aron barely survives, finally cutting off his hand to escape. After he is rescued, the film shows that Aron kept on canyoneering and hiking. He always left a note to let someone know where he was though. He also hangs out with his family again and stops avoiding them like before. He later also meets the girl of his dreams, and they have a son, just like he dreamed.

Differences



- Aron's challenges when stuck in the canyon are mostly physical.
 - **Example:** The weather, his injury, no water or food and fatigue are all challenges he must fight to survive. Aron's conflict is Nature vs. Man.
- Mentally, he feels scared that he won't survive.
 - **Example:** He records journal entries on his video camera to make himself less scared about facing death.
- Most of Jack's challenges in conflict of the novel are mental challenges.
 - **Example:** He feels guilty about how he has shocked his parents and his future, and trapped (his independence is gone). This is hard for him to deal with— he initially wants drugs or another kind of escape but works to avoid them. He does a lot of this by writing.
- There are some physical challenges for him to face because prison is very dangerous and scary but he stays safe being an x-ray technician in the medical ward. Jack's conflict is Man vs. Man.

Can you appropriately explain how prison is dangerous and scary for Jack? What sets Jack apart from other inmates?

Images Relating to the Comparison



This is called "Determination Rock", a rock formation in the Moab Desert. This made me think of Aron and Jack, as it was their determination and motivation that helped them overcome their conflicts.









This reminded me of Jack— compared to the rest of the prison population, he is pretty innocent and weak. The bird also made me think about how Jack wants to be free, mentally and physically, to go after his dreams.



This image made me think about how both Jack and Aron become trapped by the outcome of their decisions.

This is a great addition to your presentation, Simon. I especially like "Determination Rock" -- very thought provoking!

Simon's 6.3 Novel Portfolio Assessment

Value	Songs	Themes	Explanation
 Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Your song choices and observations show <i>perceptive connections</i> to theme. <input type="checkbox"/> Your song resources are documented thoroughly .	<input type="checkbox"/> Your theme statements demonstrate <i>insightful</i> understanding of the novel. <input type="checkbox"/> Your connections of theme in the article and novel are <i>impressive</i> and supported with precise detail. <input type="checkbox"/> Your article resources are documented thoroughly .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your explanation is <i>insightful</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> You provide <i>precise support</i> to reinforce ideas. <input type="checkbox"/> Your writing demonstrates <i>confident control</i> of paragraph structure, sentence construction, and grammar.
 Proficient	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your song choices and observations show <i>effective connections</i> to theme. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your song resources are documented appropriately .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your theme statements demonstrate <i>thoughtful</i> understanding of the novel. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your connections of theme in the article and novel are <i>appropriate</i> and supported with <i>specific</i> detail. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your article resources are documented appropriately .	<input type="checkbox"/> Your explanation is <i>thoughtful</i> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> You provide <i>specific support</i> to reinforce ideas. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your writing demonstrates <i>effective control</i> of paragraph structure, sentence construction, and grammar.
 Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Your song choices and observations show <i>adequate connections</i> to theme. <input type="checkbox"/> Your song resources are documented partially .	<input type="checkbox"/> Your theme statements demonstrate <i>adequate</i> understanding of the novel. <input type="checkbox"/> Your connections of theme in the article and novel are <i>general</i> and supported with <i>basic</i> detail. <input type="checkbox"/> Your article resources are documented partially .	<input type="checkbox"/> Your explanation is <i>relevant</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> You provide <i>adequate support</i> to reinforce ideas. <input type="checkbox"/> Your writing demonstrates <i>adequate control</i> of paragraph structure, sentence construction, and grammar.
 Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> Your song choices and observations show <i>limited connections</i> to theme. <input type="checkbox"/> Your song resources are documented inaccurately .	<input type="checkbox"/> Your theme statements demonstrate <i>confused</i> understanding of the novel. <input type="checkbox"/> Your connections of theme in the article and novel are <i>underdeveloped</i> and supported with <i>insufficient</i> or <i>irrelevant</i> detail. <input type="checkbox"/> Your article resources are documented inaccurately .	<input type="checkbox"/> Your explanation is <i>vague</i> or <i>superficial</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> You provide <i>imprecise</i> or <i>ineffective support</i> to reinforce ideas. <input type="checkbox"/> Your writing demonstrates <i>inadequate control</i> of paragraph structure, sentence construction, and grammar.
 Resubmission Needed	Your attempt to respond is <i>insufficient</i> . Contact your teacher to discuss suggestions for improvement and re-submission of your work		
TOTAL: 28/35 = 80%	8/10	8/10	12/15
 Assessment	<p>Areas of strength: <i>Simon, you produced a great novel portfolio! You have an accurate idea of themes and similarities in other texts. You found compelling songs to fit elements of your novel as well as very interesting articles. The article about the boy in a Canadian jail was particularly insightful, not just for the "poor decision" but because of similar events.</i></p> <p>Might I suggest . . . <i>You needed more explanation to clarify your ideas about the article concerning Aboriginal protests. As well, I made suggestions about your observations and comma usage. See comments about use of "you".</i></p>		