

6.3.2 Simon's Novel Soundtrack

Here are three examples of how Simon has arranged the songs and rationales for his assignment. Remember you must have at least 6 songs in your soundtrack.

Song Choice #1

Song Title: "The Cave" Artist: Mumford and Sons

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

(Please include a copy of the lyrics)

Due to Copyright, lyrics cannot be provided here. However, your assignment must include the written lyrics.

Song Choice #1 Rationale

I chose this song for the part in A Hole in My Life when Jack is getting ready to leave 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 ("Cause I need freedom now/And I need to know how/To live my life as it's meant to be"). 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. He wants to change his ways ("And I will change my ways/I'll know my name as it's called again") and is hopeful for the future ("The sun, it rises slowly as you walk/Away from all the fears/And all the faults you've left behind").

He has confidence in himself ("I know my call despite my faults/And despite my growing fears"), all while not forgetting that he is the one to blame for the hard times.

Song Choice #2

Song Title: "About As Helpful as You Can Be"

Artist: Dan Mangan

URL for this song: <http://tinyurl.com/d6ga48a>

(Please include a copy of the lyrics)

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Song Choice #2 Rationale

The song is about being wild and careless, as well as 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). There's 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 the last part of the song, the speaker "made a torch" of themselves, which is a metaphor for a bad decision going really wrong (a flaming torch is like a mistake and the burning is the consequence). It made me think of that phrase "crash and burn", which is what Jack did because he was so careless.

Song Choice #3

Song Title: "I Fought the Law (and the Law Won)"

Artist: The Clash

URL for this song: <http://tinyurl.com/cdokqv5>

(Please include a copy of the lyrics)

Due to Copyright, lyrics cannot be provided here. However, your assignment must include the written lyrics.

Song Choice #3 Rationale

In the climax, Hamilton and Jack are confronted by the FBI in the lobby of the Chelsea hotel. Hamilton is arrested and Jack escapes the city, back to the King's Court Hotel. He hides in his old room before his dad tells him to go back. These parts of the story where he is hiding out, as well as the parts before the court sentencing are the most intense parts of the novel. Jack realizes he's really screwed up his life. He is very anxious and upset. The song is kind of repetitive and I thought it suited Jack's headspace at this time. He can't stop thinking about going to jail and why he has to go, or how he could avoid it. The events at this point in the novel are all very fast-paced and closely linked together, and I think this matches the intensity and the pace of the Clash song. It fits the mood of Jack running away from the authorities and getting on the train to flee. As well, Jack literally "fought the law" with his choices to smuggle hash in the first place, and later, when he tries to evade the police. He definitely doesn't win in the end (the law does). Right before Jack is busted, he is incredibly happy. He had just gotten his cut of the money and everything was looking great-- but it all comes crashing down when the law "wins". It turns out that the FBI knew they were smuggling the drugs even as the boat left St. Croix.