

A track listing for an RE mixtape on matters of life and death

Richard Robinson presents twelve tracks you might like to use when you are getting pupils to think about matters of life and death.

All of the tracks have been selected for you as a prompt for your thinking so that you can link a piece of music to a key idea in RS and can make connections with a key idea or a key word to help you remember it for the examination.

- **Where is the love? The Black Eyed Peas:** A basic RE question, 'Where is the love'? The song considers the origin of love and compassion for humanity and connects to the 'Golden Rule'. Consider with pupils the meaning of love as 'agape'. The song is asking where this love is found and what happens when it is not present but is needed.
- **Blind Faith by Devlin and Ed Sheeran.** A song is about belief in the hope that something can happen which is positive. In the second part of the song Devlin raps about the final days of his life when his soul will be judged by God who will look at all of his actions and how he has lived his life and will decide where he will go to in terms of either heaven and hell. Raises questions about our destiny.
- **Community Outcaste by Devlin:** in this song Devlin is a Christ like figure who speaks out for people who have no voice and who struggle in poverty asking us to help the less fortunate in our society. Make connections to the teachings of scriptures which carry similar messages.
- **Stay with Me by DJ Ironik.** The track speaks about a situation in which a partner has been injured and is on a life support system after an accident. The lyrics imagine what would happen to her if she did not make it through and the life support had to be turned off. He expresses the idea that faith in God means leaving this to God to decide what will happen. She then comes out of the coma and returns to consciousness. Connect this to work on euthanasia, 'gentle death'. Does this go against the idea that life is a sacred gift from God? Is it true that only God can decide when our time on this planet is over? Can it be the most loving thing to let someone die if they are in pain or are suffering? I connect this to the story of Frankie in the movie 'Million Dollar Baby', who helped the character Maggie to die.
- **A Team by Ed Sheeran.** A song about human trafficking and the need to feel compassion, and understanding towards our fellow humanity. The young woman in the song is trying to make a better life for herself and is 'just under the upper-hand' or just about to get her life in order when things go wrong. Ed Sheeran is asking the listener to have love and compassion towards this young woman and not to judge her. The song connects well to stories in which Jesus walked with people who were not traditionally accepted by society and this is also about agape, love and compassion and treating all people with respect and dignity and mirrors the Golden Rule.
- **Guilty Conscience By Eminem and Dr Dre.** A song about the conscience and how we make decisions in given situations. Pupils might explore conscience as the inner voice of moral guidance, or even as the voice of God within you which helps you make the right decision. Dr Dre represents the conscience and Slim Shady represents your instincts. The two parts of self battle it out.
- **I've got soul but I am not a soldier by Young Soul Rebels:** this is a piece of music created for War Child, a charity who try to protect children from war and conflict and the video very clearly makes a link between poverty and war and its consequences. The performers all want to make a difference to the lives of children caught up in conflict. This again is about a charity trying to make a difference motivated by broadly Christian principles to help the less fortunate and the lyrics clearly express the idea that all that children want is to drink to water but they cannot because there is war over bricks and mortar.
- **Karma by Alicia Keys:** this is a song about the law of cause and effect, a key idea in Hindu understanding: do all of our actions determine the condition of our re-birth in our next life? Alicia Keys simply says what goes around comes around: a link to ideas about karma.
- **Judgement Day by Ms Dynamite:** this is a song about people confronting the bad things they have done and when the ultimate day comes when God judges all how will they get on and how will they feel for all of the things they have done to other people. This ties in with matters of life and death since the Christian belief in life after death is very much based upon God making a judgement on individuals and whether they do to heaven or to hell.
- **Mirrors by MotionPictureSoundtrack.** A song about a person who wanted to take their own life and was partially paralysed by their attempt to do this. The song is about a young person saving the life of a

parent and covers issues linked to voluntary euthanasia because the parent wanted to die but the young person saved their life. Was it the right thing to do even though the adult would be totally dependent upon care for the rest of their life? What is the value of limited quality of life?

- **Fetus by Nas:** this song is about abortion and is all about the artist Nas looking through the 'belly button window' of his mother and imagining a conversation from his parents about whether to abort him or not. It raises some key issues about whether abortion is ever right and the artist is a Christian and would in all likelihood believe that all life is sacred and that in effect to take the life of a baby in this way would be tantamount to murder.
- **Papa by N-Dubz.** The song is all about the hope that there is an afterlife, that those who die are somehow at peace and the hope that all will be re-united at death. The video also shows the idea of a door to the afterlife and pictures how close the living are to the dead. The song also talks about remembrance and about the memories associated with a person and their passing. It makes a plea for forgiveness for any wrongs done or said to the deceased person.
- **Science and Faith by The Script.** A song is about religion and science. Science can explain a lot but sometimes faith can offer us answers that reason cannot. Science has created for us the technology by which we can save lives and help others and we have a duty to use this technology to help others, for example in the case of Siamese twin surgery.
- **Written in the Stars by Tinnie Tempah:** this uses a quote from Christian scripture in 1 Timothy: 'money is the root of the evildest ways', a paraphrase of the quote 'the love of money is the root of all evil' and this speaks about how money can be used for bad reasons to promote inequality and to separate people from each other. This connects to issues about inequality and poverty. Do Christians have a duty to help the oppressed through good works? Is this a Christlike thing to do? Should they challenge injustice politically as well?