

BM7, SoSe 2012, TEST ASSIGNMENT – Popular Music

Analyse the song Rise Against "Hero of War." *Appeal to Reason*. DGC, 2008. CD. Refer to the handouts *Conceptual Tools for the Analysis of Popular Music* and *Key Concepts in Cultural Studies: Culture/Media/Identity/Discourse*.

Rise Against "Hero of War." *Appeal to Reason*. DGC, 2008. CD.

He said, "Son, have you seen the world?
Well, what would you say if I said that you could?
Just carry this gun, you'll even get paid"
I said, "That sounds pretty good"

Black leather boots, spit-shined so bright
They cut off my hair but it looks alright
We marched and we sang
We all became friends as we learned how to fight

A hero of war, yeah that's what I'll be
And when I come home they'll be damn proud of me
I'll carry this flag to the grave if I must
'Cause it's a flag that I love and a flag that I trust

I kicked in the door, I yelled my commands
The children they cried but I got my man
We took him away, a bag over his face
From his family and his friends

They took off his clothes, they pissed in his hands
I told them to stop but then I joined in
We beat him with guns and batons
Not just once but again and again

A hero of war, yeah that's what I'll be
And when I come home they'll be damn proud of me
I'll carry this flag to the grave if I must
'Cause it's a flag that I love and a flag that I trust

She walked through bullets and haze
I asked her to stop, I begged her to stay
But she pressed on
So I lifted my gun and I fired away

And the shells jumped through the smoke
And into the sand that the blood now had soaked
She collapsed with a flag in her hand
A flag white as snow

A hero of war is that what they see
Just medals and scars, so damn proud of me
And I brought home that flag, now it gathers dust
But it's a flag that I love, it's the only flag I trust

He said, "Son, have you seen the world?
Well, what would you say if I said that you could?"

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Please address the following tasks:

1. Identify the structure of the song by describing its basic song units. (verse, chorus, bridge)
2. Describe the musical level of the song. (vocal style, instruments, rhythm, pitch, melody)
3. Analyse the lyrical level of the song. (identity of the speaker, addressee, topic, intertextual references, register)
4. Emotional and identificatory dimension. What lyrical and musical aspects or elements contribute to the emotional and identificatory potential of the song?

Total points: 100

Grading:

- under 35: 6
- 35-49: 5
- 50-60: 4
- 61-70: 3
- 71-80: 2
- 81-100: 1