

The Impact of Pop Culture

I'm sure everyone of you has a song, book, art, or some type of pop culture that has had an impact on your life. Think about what that thing is. Do you remember the first time you encountered it? Did it change your life in any way? Pop culture can have a huge impact on people's perspective and view on life. It allows people to get a new understanding of the world and can even have the power to completely change someone's life. As humans we tend to be influenced by pop culture daily. Whether it is a book, movie, music, or any other piece of pop culture, it impacts all of us. A piece of Pop Culture that personally impacted me and my life is the song "Vienna" by Billy Joel.

For those of you who don't know, Billy Joel is a singer/songwriter and pianist. You might know his songs Uptown Girl, Piano Man, or My Life. The song "Vienna" came out in 1977 on his album "The Stranger". The first time I heard this song I felt like he was speaking directly to me. I can relate to every line in the song and have learned so much about living life through it. The song starts off by saying to "slow down... You're so ambitious for a juvenile." This lyric resonates with me because I have been planning my future for as long as I can remember. I decided at a young age that I wanted to travel the world and experience as much as I could, all while taking pictures of the world. The song then asks "Why are you still so afraid?" This is such an important question because even though I know how I want to live my life, it is still such a scary thing. I would argue even scarier than not knowing. If you have a plan, you risk failing and not reaching your dreams. Later Joel says, "What's the hurry about?... You've got so much to do and only so many hours in a day." When I heard this lyric I realized I had been spending so much time focused on what I would do with my life instead of living in the moment and enjoying my youth. In my opinion the most important lyric is, "You can't be everything you want to be before your time." This taught me that my dreams and goals will come to me in their own time. Obviously I still need to work on them, but I can not force anything before its time. Joel also says, "don't you know that only fools are satisfied. Dream on but don't imagine they'll all come true." I love this lyric because I think dreams and aspirations are what make life beautiful. If we do not have anything to strive to become what are we living for. Although we do not always get what we want and life is not always fair, dreaming is what makes life worth living. Joel also used repetition to emphasize the importance of the phrase, "Vienna waits for you." Vienna is a metaphor for goals and ambitions. This lyric taught me that I do not need to hurry and rush my life in order to attain my dreams. Vienna will always be there waiting for the perfect time.

The lyrics in "Vienna" by Billy Joel portray an important message that every young,

ambitious human needs to hear. The song taught me to slow down and enjoy life, but also to keep dreaming. Every word in this song tells an important lesson, and completely changed my outlook on life. Pop culture has the opportunity to affect how people think, feel, and act. Some can even change how people live their life. The lyrics in "Vienna" affected the way I live and look at my life. I encourage everyone to think about what pop culture has impacted their life and really question why. It can show you much more about yourself than you knew before.