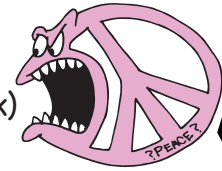


MEAN THINGS HAPPENIN' IN THIS WORLD

Look at the big ¹ _____ across the sea
I'm sure that you'll agree

There's mean things happenin' in this world
I ain't got a cryin' dime
I'm that way all the ² _____

There's mean things happenin' in this world (2x)

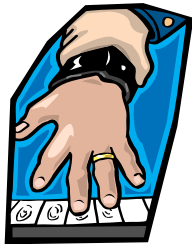


Everything is leased and lent
to the ³ _____ it has went
And the soldier in the war
Don't know what he's fightin' for
And the tanks are rollin' on
To the burstin' of the ⁴ _____
Brother and Sister gettin' killed
For that green back ⁵ _____ bill

There's mean things happenin' in this world

Man and Woman lend an ⁶ _____
To the war that's drawin' near
You're spied on by ⁷ _____

If you speak that word of Peace
And if you talk about Brotherly Love,
Back in ⁸ _____ you'll get shoved
I'd rather fight for Peace
Than this crooked Lend & Lease



There's mean things happenin' in this world (3x)
Na, na, na (3x)

Folks want Peace for miles aroun'
From New York City down
We're gonna ⁹ _____ our Nation
With a Peace Mobilization
Lord, the cops turn on th' heat
If you talk Peace in th' ¹⁰ _____

Organize my Brother and Sister
We'll win this World, this World again



There's mean things happenin' in this World

Na, na, na, na, na there's mean things happenin'

PART I: Listen to the song and fill in the gaps with the words that you hear. Compare your answers with a partner. Use the following phrases to help you

•What did you get for this one?
•What do you think this one is?
•I think I heard _____. What did you hear?
•It sounded like _____. What do you think it might be?

PART II: Look back at the lyrics and answer the following questions:

- What 'mean thing' is this song referring to?
- What happens to you if you talk about Peace and Brotherly Love?
- How can we make things better in this World?
- Find some instances of abbreviated spelling and unconventional grammar used in the lyrics (often referred to as poetic license).

PART III: Discussion Questions

- Make a list of some 'mean things happenin' right now 'in this world'.
- Can you think of any instances when 'cops turn on th' heat' and/or people being thrown into jail for talking about 'Brotherly Love'?
- What in your opinion is the most important message of this song?

PART IV: EMPOWER Yourself!

- Surf the Net or library and try and find some cases of (b) and (c) in Part III above that were not mentioned in class. (One great source is <http://www.indymedia.org>)
 - Go to <http://www.woodyguthrie.org/> and do some research on Woody Guthrie, the writer of this song. Take notes of the interesting information you come across.
- In the next class, you will give a mini-presentation to your classmates about the information you discovered.

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