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 do you hear?
- It sounded like ________ What do you think it might be?

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

a) What ‘mean thing’ is this song referring to?

b) What happens to you if you talk about Peace and Brotherly Love?

c) How can we make things better in this World?

d) Find some instances of abbreviated spelling and unconventional grammar used in the lyrics (often referred to as poetic license).

PART III: Discussion Questions

a) Make a list of some ‘mean things happenin’ right now ‘in this world’.

b) Can you think of any instances when ‘cops turn on th’ heat’ and/or people being thrown into jail for talking about ‘Brotherly Love’?

c) What in your opinion is the most important message of this song?

PART IV: EMPOWER Yourself!

a) 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)

b) 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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