



Musical Perspectives

Most popular songs are sung from pretty generic, interchangeable perspectives. The narrator is sad about being alone; the narrator is happy about being in love; the narrator is at an establishment that sells alcohol and is having a fun time there—you get the idea. These kinds of songs may allow a broad swath of listeners to easily identify with a hazily-defined musical persona, but they are also, so far as we're concerned, boring as heck.

This bonus is about the *other* songs. The songs that, once you pay attention to the lyrics, make you think, "Wait—*who's* saying this?"

Each question in this bonus will describe the perspective from which a popular song is being sung. (Please note that these perspectives are often not those of the actual real-world singer. Bob Marley did not personally shoot any sheriffs, even if the narrator of one of his best-known songs did.) In most cases, we derived this description from the lyrics alone, but in a few of them we've provided supplemental context from the songwriters' commentary or other real-world background. All you have to do is name the song.

To be clear, these clues **will not just describe what the song is about**. They will describe **the perspective the song is being sung from**. If a question were to read, say, "A giant mound of poo," you would have to think not merely of a song that *discusses* a mound of poo, but one in which *the mound of poo is itself singing*.

We will also provide some facts about relevant chart performance (or, absent that information, some other helpful data point) to help you narrow things down. When you see multiple chart positions, note that those separated by an "&" are different chart performances for the same recording, while those separated by a "," refer to different recordings of the same song. If there are countries outside of the US listed, we will place the chart of the performer's home country first. Artists are not required (especially since many of these songs have been recorded by more than one artist); we only need a song title.

You have *probably* heard of most of these songs, whether or not you realize it. Good luck!

1. Disgruntled appliance deliverymen. (UK #4 & US #1 1985)
2. A sixteen-year-old motoring past her ex-boyfriend's house. (US #1 2021)
3. A man being held up at a back-alley dice game, and the friend who arrives to dispatch his assailants. (US #2 1994)
4. A wrongfully-executed man's younger sister, who turns out to be the real killer. (US #1 1973, US Country #12 1992)
5. A woman who is either being seduced or abducted, and (in the remix) a sexually predatory alien. (US #1 2011)
6. A Tennessee girl running away from her family to be a go-go dancer at a gay bar. (US #9 2023 & US #4 2025)
7. A Mississippi girl at dinner with her family, discussing noteworthy local events of the day. (US #1 1967)
8. The lingering spirits of corpses buried in ash. (UK #2 & US #5 2013)
9. A man about to masturbate to a magazine spread featuring the girl he had a crush on in high school. (US #1 1981)
10. A woman about to masturbate to a gay men's magazine spread. (US #3 1984)
11. A crack dealer rhapsodizing about his literal and figurative partner-in-crime. (US #2 2015)
12. A meth addict wistfully remembering, among other things, one time that his ex-girlfriend gave him a blowjob. (US #4 1997)
13. Demons subtly implying that they'd like to consume their listeners' souls OR demons outright stating that they're about to consume their listeners' souls—your choice! (US #3 2025 and US #4 2025, respectively)
14. A soon-to-be-retired passenger train. (US #18 1972, US Hot Country #1 1984)
15. A woman having sex with a man while concealing the fact that she's actively fantasizing about having sex with a woman instead. (US #1 2009)
16. A man dictating a missive to his unfaithful wife indicating that he is leaving her for the secretary typing it up. (US #2 1969)
17. A man struggling with substance abuse and severe anger management problems, and (belatedly) the performer with whom he has an unhealthy parasocial relationship. (US #51 & UK #1 2000)
18. A boy struggling with his girlfriend's abortion and their efforts to hide it from her parents. (US Modern Rock #6 1997)
19. An immigrant carrying forged documents. (UK #19 & US #4 2008)
20. A man making an (ironically) unsuccessful attempt to cheat on his long-term partner via the classified pages. (US #1 1979)
21. A woman plotting and then committing the murder of both her former lover and his current lover. (US #1 2023)
22. An avian nightlight. (US Modern Rock #3 1989)
23. A woman having sex in the backseat of a limousine. (US Dance #1 2014)
24. A cold-blooded killer whose crime(s?) and sentencing raise certain jurisdictional questions along the California-Nevada border. (US Hot Country #4 1955, US Hot Country #1 1968)
25. A schoolmate of a boy who shot himself in his classroom. (US Modern Rock #5 1992)

26. A school shooter mocking his classmates' footwear. (US #3 2011)
27. A woman criticizing her real-life common-law husband for—among other things—cheating on her and getting her into trouble with Internal Revenue. (US Hot Latin #1 2023)
28. A jilted lover/potential arsonist. (UK silver certification 1965)
29. A would-be groom about to call off his wedding shortly before the ceremony. (US #7 2006)
30. The crew of the first manned mission to Venus, mid-take-off. (Sweden #1 & US #8 1986)
31. A bovine, not a feline. (500M+ streams 2018)
32. The mourning ex-girlfriend of a motorcycle gang leader, and her friends. (US #1 1964)
33. A youngster rejecting a potential age-appropriate partner due to a crush on said potential partner's parent. (US #21 2003)
34. In its most popular version, revolutionaries attributing a hated president's death to a lack of marijuana. (Traditional)
35. Katie, implicitly—and, explicitly, not Stacey, Jane, Mary, Jo, or Lisa. (UK #1 2009)
36. A telecommunications worker listening in on other people's conversations. (US #3 1968)
37. The current owner of Holiday House, reflecting on the legacy of a previous owner. (US #13 2020)
38. Heathcliff and/or the disinterred corpse of Catherine (from *Wuthering Heights*) dancing in the moonlight on a beach. (You know, one of the famous beaches of the West Yorkshire moors. Look, don't ask us—that's what the songwriter said he was thinking about.) (Canada #1 & US #2 1996)
39. A gangster whose female accomplice sets up her wealthy lovers for him to rob, as well as one of the aforementioned wealthy lovers. (US #2 2018)
40. A Vietnam vet having difficulty finding employment, receiving adequate healthcare, and staying out of prison. (US #9 1984)
41. A stoned man on the subway who is stalking someone else's girlfriend and possibly planning to kill himself because of it. (UK #1 & US #1 2005)
42. A woman telling her husband that she's done letting him keep knocking her up over and over, but she's looking forward to engaging in some non-baby-making fun. (US Hot Country #5 1975)
43. The monster under the singer's bed (who may be a representation of her self-loathing and/or sleep paralysis), asking some questions. (US Alternative #5 2019)
44. A boy taking a distinctly unpleasurable pleasure cruise in the Bahamas (although what exactly goes wrong on the ship depends upon the recording). (Canada #1 1960, US #3 1966)
45. A man caught *in flagrante delicto* by his girlfriend, and a friend advising him to deny everything. (US #1 2000)
46. A woman whose lover gradually becomes more and more like the unemployed alcoholic father from whom she ran away. (US #6 1988, US #2 2023)
47. A teenaged boy realizing in horror at 4 AM that, even if he and his girlfriend didn't have sex, everyone is going to assume that they did. (US #1 1957, US #27 1982)
48. An enormously famous singer insisting that her celebrity has not affected her authentic connection to the South Bronx. (US #3 2003)

49. A chess player criticizing sex tourism, and the locals that he plainly disdains. (UK #12 & Europe #1 1985)
50. Some guys egging on a woman who is cheating on her boyfriend with his two friends—and, in the remix, the woman herself, who also hopes to get with the listener she's addressing. (It's also possible that the guys are the friends she's cheating with? Our team doesn't entirely agree on the interpretation.) (Spain #10 1993, US #1 1996)