



# Cultural Tapestry Arts Lesson: The Doobie Brothers

## *Takin' It to the Streets*

You don't know me but I'm your brother -  
I was raised here in this living hell.  
You don't know my kind in your world;  
Fairly soon the time will tell

You - telling me the things you're gonna do for me  
I ain't blind and I don't like what I think I see

Takin' it to the streets  
Takin' it to the streets  
Takin' it to the streets  
Takin' it to the streets

Take this message to my brother -  
You will find him everywhere,  
Wherever people live together  
Tied in poverty's despair...

You - telling me the things you're gonna do for me  
I ain't blind and I don't like what I think I see

Takin' it to the streets,  
Takin' it to the streets,  
Takin' it to the streets,  
Takin' it to the streets...

**Lyrics & Music: Michael McDonald (1976)** - Michael McDonald joined The Doobie Brothers in 1975, and became one of the band's primary songwriters. The band was influenced by blues and soul music; they often described life in the lower Mississippi basin - especially New Orleans.

Official YouTube release (no video) - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5o\\_umKOTXIs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5o_umKOTXIs)

**NOTES:**

# Let's Explore

Spend several minutes to read the lyrics a few times...

- *What do you notice?*
  - *Who or what is the subject(s) and why was the writer inspired to write about them?*
  - *What do you learn about the subject - where might this be taking place, and when?*
  - *What makes this subject different or special?*
  
- *What do you wonder?*
  - *What is going on? What surrounds the subject of the song?*
  - *What happened before the time of the song, and what might come next?*
  - *Are there different ways to see the situation, or is it clear what is happening?*
  - *Have you ever seen someone or something like the subject? If you have, where did you see them or it?*
  
- *How does it make you feel?*
  - *If the song describes an action, would you ever like to do something similar?*
  - *Do you see yourself in the song? In what way?*
  - *Do things or feelings in the song remind you of anything?*
  - *Does the title of the song affect how you feel about it?*

Write down your thoughts and share with family and friends...

# The Four Artistic Processes



## **RESPOND:** Explore and Understand

- What words have impact? Why do you think the author chose them?
- What do you notice about tone, rhythm, pattern and mood of the song?

## **CONNECT:** Relate to the artwork

- How does the song make you feel? Why?
- If you could interview the author or the subject, what questions would you ask?
- What do you think the subject (person) in the song is doing? If there isn't a person, do you feel an emotion in what is written, such as affection, tension, or creativity?

## **CREATE:** Make your own art

- Write a poem or short essay reflecting on the way the song makes you feel, or a subject similar to that of the song.
- Draw or paint an artwork or take a photograph that has a subject similar to that in the song.
- Imagine you are the artist who created the song. Write what they might say to describe their reason for writing the song, from their point of view.

## **PRESENT:** Share your artwork

- Share your creation with family or friends.
- Take a moment to share what you have discovered.