

RAP SHEET

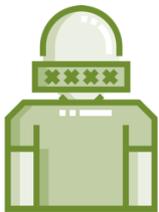
UNDERSTAND YOUR TEENAGER



<True RAP is a perfect mixture of poetry and beat, > writes Mark, a 16-year-old high school student from Hudson. <Rap is sung from the heart in an attempt to explain yourself to the world. The big misconception is that RAP is only about crime, drugs and sex. It may seem that way but most of the time the rap artist is trying to explain his actions and ask for forgiveness. In the song BIBLE by GZA Genius, BIBLE stands for Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth. This is a test... "We quest the universe and through research I felt the joy and hurt." This song is about his journey through life. GZA deserves his title genius because he gets his message across while following a beat with perfect precision. This is not easily done and Rap deserves more respect from its critics.>

Some educators agree: Not all rap lyrics are socially irresponsible, says a Saskatchewan Education publication. Some rap argues against injustice, racism, drugs and police brutality. Rap is highly visual, presenting graphic images and often addresses the moral dilemmas faced by today's youth.

WHAT ADULTS CAN DO:



Take advantage of their interest in rap music and involve young people in a debate about censorship issues, including implications for artists and society.

Ask them to list other art forms, past and present, that present a case against injustice.

Have them use traditional, found, or homemade instruments to create a rap that expresses their viewpoints about the society they live in.



FOR YOUNGER READERS

Earth Magic, by Dionne Brand

Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat, by Nikki Giovanni

The Roots of Rap: 16 Bars on the 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop, by Carole Boston Weatherford

When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop, by Laban Carrick Hill

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