



Walk On – U2 – Notes (1)



- **Activity types:** Discussion; rhyming words; gap fill; Internet search
- **Level:** Intermediate/Upper-Intermediate (Song only: Elementary/Pre-Intermediate)
- **Language:** Talking about human rights; reading and discussing the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*; speaking about human rights activists; summarising; reporting; comparing
- **Note:** This is from U2's 2000 album *All That You Can't Leave Behind*. Released as a single in 2001, it won a 2002 Grammy Award for Record of the Year. The song is about Aung San Suu Kyi, the Myanmar (ex-Burma) leader of the National League for Democracy, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 "for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights". Under house arrest since 1989, she was offered freedom if she left her country, but she refused.

- Write the word **RIGHTS** on the board and ask students to give examples of the rights they enjoy everyday. Write their answers on the board.

Possible answers: life – freedom of opinion/expression/movement – education

- Elicit different kinds of rights (civil, political, economic, social, cultural) and invite students to discuss which in their opinion are the most basic.
- Focus on "human rights". Explain that these are universal inalienable moral rights, applying to all people at all times whatever their nationality and country. Introduce the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10th December 1948. You can download the text and background information from several websites, including www.amnesty.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights-anniversary/declaration-text
- Divide students into small groups. Each group can read some articles from the UDHR (30 articles). After, they can report to open class and discuss which rights are ensured in their own national Constitution; if they know of countries where some rights are not ensured or violated; if they know of associations or activists promoting and defending human rights.
- Introduce one of the world's best-known human rights activists, Aung San Suu Kyi. You can find her biography at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aung_Suu_Kyi
- Explain they are going to listen to a song about her by the Irish rock band U2, which they will have to complete.

Write the following words on the board and ask students to match the rhyming words:

aches
back
been
break

breaks
bring
buy
crack

deny
feel
seen
steal

thing
make

Key: (note: the numbers refer to the next activity)

1. thing
2. bring
3. crack
4. back

5. steal
6. feel
7. been
8. seen

9. deny
10. buy
11. aches
12. breaks

13. make
14. break

- Students listen for the words above and number them in the order they hear them (if they appear more than once, refer to the first time). Play the song. (See **Key** above)
- Give each student a copy of the worksheet and ask them to fill in the gaps with the missing words according to their answers to the previous activity and context.
- Play the song again. Students check in pairs. Correct in open class, then sing together.



Walk On – U2 – Notes (2)



FURTHER ACTIVITIES: History/Cinema (Aung San Suu Kyi)
Geography/History (Burma/Myanmar)
English Literature (George Orwell)
Peace and Human Rights (Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

- Students can search for further information about **Aung San Suu Kyi** on the web and report their findings. They can also report information about other popular Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. Find more at http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates
- Students can watch the 1995 film **Beyond Rangoon**, directed by John Boorman, about Laura Bowman, an American tourist in Burma, who joins university students protesting for democracy, against the brutality of the military dictators of the State Law and Order Restoration Council. She hears about Aung San Suu Kyi, the embodiment of hope for a peaceful future in Burma.
- Students can search for information about **Burma/Myanmar** on the web, summarise and report their findings.

After the Third Burmese War all of Burma came directly or indirectly under British India in 1886 and was administered as a province of British India until 1937 when it became a separate, self-governing colony. The country became independent from the United Kingdom on 4 January 1948, as the "Union of Burma". It became the "Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma" on 4 January 1974, before reverting to the "Union of Burma" on 23 September 1988. On 18 June 1989, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) adopted the name "Union of Myanmar". This controversial name change, while accepted in the UN and in many countries, is not recognised by opposition groups and by nations such as the United Kingdom and the United States. (based on wikipedia.org)

- The British writer **George Orwell** (1903 – 1950) is connected to Burma. He was born in India, where his father was an official in the Indian Civil Service, and educated in England. In 1922 he joined the Imperial Police in Burma, serving for five years. He resigned because of his dislike of imperialism. He returned to a series of ill-paid jobs in Paris, then London, living in a state of "fairly severe poverty", before becoming a regular contributor to *The Adelphi* from 1930. His first book, *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933), described these early experiences and was followed by **Burmese Days** (1934), a novel expressing his indignation over political injustice. (based on *The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English*, CUP 1988)

Orwell's best-known works are **Animal Farm** (1945) and **1984** (1949), two pessimistic satires about the threat of totalitarian power. *Animal Farm* is a satirical allegory of Stalin's Russia. The animals on Mr Jones's farm, led by the pigs, revolt against their human masters. They decide to run the farm themselves on egalitarian principles. The Seventh Commandment says, "All animals are equal". However, in time the pigs become corrupted by power and a new tyranny is established. The corruption of power is summed up in a single (the Seventh) commandment, "All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others".

- Students can compare *Animal Farm's* Seventh Commandment to the Articles 1 and 3 from the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.
- Students can compare George Orwell to other writers related to British Imperialism, such as Rudyard Kipling (India) and Doris Lessing (Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe).



Walk On – U2



(Spoken:)
 And love is not the easy _____
 The only baggage that you can _____
 Not the easy _____
 The only baggage you can _____
 Is all that you can't leave behind



And if the darkness is to keep us apart
 And if the daylight feels like it's a long way
 off
 And if your glass heart should _____
 And for a second you turn _____
 Oh no, be strong

Oh, Walk on, Walk on
 What you got, they can't _____ it
 No, they can't even _____ it
 Walk on, Walk on
 Stay safe tonight

You're packing a suitcase for a place
 None of us has _____
 A place that has to be believed
 To be _____

You could have flown away
 A singing bird
 In an open cage
 Who will only fly
 Only fly for freedom

Oh, Walk on, Walk on
 What you got
 You can't _____ it
 Can't sell it or _____ it
 Walk on, Walk on
 You stay safe tonight

And I know it _____
 How your heart it _____
 You can only take so much

Walk on,
 Walk on

Home
 Hard to know what it is
 If you never had one
 Home
 I can't say where it is
 But I know I'm going
 Home
 That's where the hurt is

And I know it _____
 And your heart it _____
 You can only take so much
 Walk on

Leave it behind
 You've got to leave it behind

All that you fashion
 All that you _____
 All that you build
 All that you _____

All that you measure
 All that you feel
 All this you can leave behind

All that you reason
 All that you care
 (It's only time
 And I'll never fill up all my mind)
 All that you sense
 All that you scheme
 All you dress up
 And all that you see



Walk On – U2 - Complete



(Spoken:)

And love is not the easy **thing**
The only baggage that you can **bring**
Not the easy **thing**
The only baggage you can **bring**
Is all that you can't leave behind

And if the darkness is to keep us apart
And if the daylight feels like it's a long way off
And if your glass heart should **crack**
And for a second you turn **back**
Oh no, be strong

Oh, Walk on, Walk on
What you got, they can't **steal** it
No, they can't even **feel** it

Walk on, Walk on
Stay safe tonight

You're packing a suitcase for a place
None of us has **been**
A place that has to be believed
To be **seen**

You could have flown away
A singing bird
In an open cage
Who will only fly
Only fly for freedom

Oh, Walk on, Walk on
What you got
You can't **deny** it
Can't sell it or **buy** it

Walk on, walk on
You stay safe tonight

And I know it **aches**
How your heart it **breaks**
You can only take so much

Walk on,
Walk on

Home
Hard to know what it is
If you never had one
Home
I can't say where it is
But I know I'm going
Home
That's where the hurt is

And I know it **aches**
And your heart it **breaks**
You can only take so much
Walk on

Leave it behind
You've got to leave it behind

All that you fashion
All that you **make**
All that you build
All that you **break**

All that you measure
All that you feel
All this you can leave behind

All that you reason
(It's only time
And I'll never fill up all my mind)
All that you sense
All that you scheme
All you dress up
And all that you see