Introduction to EMPOWERMENT

7.1.1. Students will be expected to explore the general concept of empowerment.

*Nelly Furtado*: Canadian singer/songwriter born in Victoria to parents with Portuguese heritage, the language in which Furtado initially began her career. She comes from a working-class background, whose mother was a chambermaid/housekeeper (Nelly also worked with her mother) and claims this has helped shape her identity.

**Powerless (Say What You Want)**

Paint my face in your magazines   
Make it look whiter than it seems   
Paint me over with your dreams   
Shove away my ethnicity   
Burn every notion that I may have a flame inside to fight   
And say just what is on my mind   
Without offending your might   
  
Cuz this life is too short to live it just for you   
But when you feel so powerless what are you gonna do   
So say what you want  
Say what you want  
  
I saw her face outside today   
Weatherworn, looking all the rage   
They took her passion and her gaze and made a poster   
Now it’s moccasins we sport   
We take the culture and contort   
Perhaps only to distort what we are hiding   
  
Cuz this life is too short to live it just for you   
But when you feel so powerless what are you gonna do   
But say what you want  
Say what you want  
  
Hey you, the one, the one outside, are you ever gonna get in, get in   
Hey you, the one that don’t fit in, how ya, how ya gonna get in   
Hey you, the one outside, are you ever gonna get in with your   
Broken teeth, broken jaw, broken mojo   
Yeah, this life is too short to live it just for you   
But when you feel so powerless, what are you gonna do   
  
Cuz this life is too short to live it just for you   
But when you feel so powerless, what are you gonna do  
Cuz this life is too short to live it just for you   
But when you feel so powerless, what are you gonna do  
Say what you want, say what you want, say, say, say  
  
Cuz this life is too short,  
just for you

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| Discuss below as much as possible: | |
| How is this song an example of empowerment? | How is this song an example of **dis**empowerment? |
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| Sum up what you think the song is about, and explain to me whether you feel this song is more about empowerment or disempowerment:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |