

GLORY

- This lesson can be used by itself or considered as a possible following of the lesson “Selma”
- The objective is to understand how it embodies the African Americans’ conditions of living in the USA
- The final task will be to explain the circumstances and the political context in which the song was written and to explain why Selma’s director chose this song as a film code title. In other words, what allowed them to find some analogies between the two situations and what the importance of the inner song references are.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVmoixNtKsA>

Act n° 1 Reading the lyrics say if the following

One day when the glory comes
It will be ours
It will be ours
One day when the war is one
We will be sure
We will be here sure
Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory,

*Hands to the heavens
No man, no weapons
Formed against yes glory
Glory is destined everyday
Everyday women and men become legends
Sins that go against our skin become blessings
The movement is a rhythm to us
Freedom is like a religion to us
Justice is juxtaposition in us
Justice for all
Just ain't specific enough
One son died
His spirit is revisiting us
Truant living, living in us
Resistance is us
That's why Rosa sat on the bus
That's why we walk through Ferguson
With our hands up
When it'd gone down
We women and men up
They say "stay down"
They say and we stand up
Shots, we on the ground
The camera panned up
King pointed to the mountain top
And we ran up*

One day when the glory comes
It will be ours
It will be ours
When the war is one
We will be sure
We will be here sure
Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory,
Now the war is not over
Victory isn't won
But we will fight on to the finish
Then when it's all done
We'll cry glory
Oh glory, glory, glory
We'll cry glory
Oh glory, glory, glory

*Selma is now
For every man, every woman and child
Even Jesus got his crown
In front of a crowd
They marched with the torch
We gon' run with it now
Never look back
We 'd done gone hundreds of miles from dark roads
He rose to become a hero
Facing the league of justice
His power was the people
The enemy is lethal
A king became regal
Saw the face of Jim Crow
Under a bald eagle
The biggest weapon is to stay peaceful
We sing, our music is the cuts
That we bleed through
Somewhere in the dream we had
An epiphany
Now we write the wrongs in history
No one can win the war individually
It takes the wisdom of the elders
And young people's energy
Welcome to the story
We call victory
The coming of the Lord
My eyes have seen the glory*

One day when the glory comes
It will be ours
It will be ours
One day when the war is one
We will be sure
We will be here sure
Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory
When the war is done
When it's all said and done
We'll cry glory
Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory, Glory

Act n° 1: Find the words belonging to the following lexical fields

• VIOLENCE:

- War
- Weapons
- Shots
- Fight
- Lethal
- Jim Crow

• PEACE:

- Heavens
- Freedom
- Justice
- Resistance
- Hands up
- Wisdom
- Energy
- Victory

Act n°2 Find and quote the religious lexical field and explain its references

- Glory
- Heavens
- Sins
- Blessing
- Religion
- Mountain top
- Jesus
- Epiphany
- Lord

Act n°3 Quote some of the numerous religious references and try to justify their presence

- Glory: beginning of a pray
- Heavens: a place or state of communion with God after death. Opposite to hell
- Sins: bad deeds according to the law of the Lord
- Blessing: the bestowal of a divine gift or favour
- Religion: something of overwhelming importance to a person
- Mountain top: a privileged place to receive Lord's message for example "Ten Commandments"
- Jesus: Christians' messiah
- Epiphany: celebrates the revelation of God in his Son as human in Jesus Christ.
- Lord: God

Intermediate task: Find all the cultural references and explain them

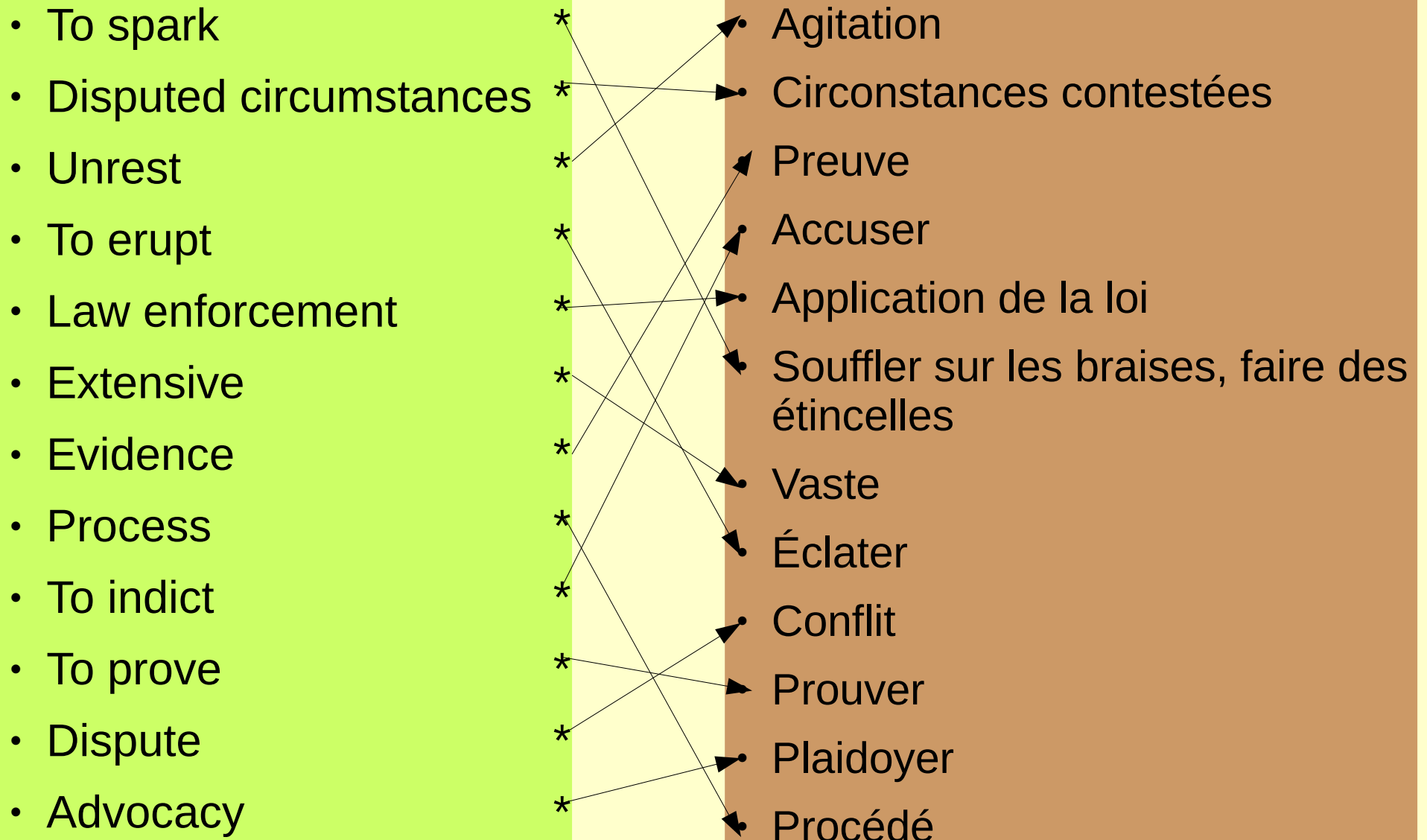
- Fergusson: The shooting of Michael Brown occurred on August 9th, 2014, in Ferguson, Missouri, a northern suburb of St. Louis. Brown, an 18-year-old black man, was fatally shot by Darren Wilson, 28, a white Ferguson police officer. The disputed circumstances of the shooting of the unarmed man sparked existing tensions in the predominantly black city, and protests and civil unrest erupted. The events received considerable attention in the US. and elsewhere, attracted protesters from outside the region, and generated a vigorous debate about the relationship between law enforcement and African Americans, and police use of force doctrine in Missouri and nationwide. A grand jury was called and given extensive evidence from Robert McCulloch, the St. Louis County Prosecutor, in a highly unusual process. On November 24th, 2014, McCulloch announced that the St. Louis County grand jury had decided not to indict Wilson. The protesters' movement as called "hands up" referring to the dispute as some said Brown had his hands up before being shot. Some evidence in the court proved the opposite theory and agreed with the self-defence advocacy.

vocabulary

- To spark
- Disputed circumstances
- Unrest
- To erupt
- Law enforcement
- Extensive
- Evidence
- Process
- To indict
- To prove
- Dispute
- Advocacy

- Agitation
- Circonstances contestées
- Preuve
- Accuser
- Application de la loi
- Souffler sur les braises, faire des étincelles
- Vaste
- Éclater
- Conflit
- Prouver
- Plaidoyer
- Procédé

vocabulary



Cultural references

- King: refers to Martin Luther King Jr. An iconic symbol of struggle for civil rights in the USA. He was assassinated because of his action.
- Rosa: refers to Rosa Parks who decided to sit in a bus in 1955. She refused to give her seat to a white man and was arrested in Montgomery. She was accused of civil disobedience and violation of segregationist laws in Alabama. A boycott of buses in Alabama was decided.
- Selma: a small city in Alabama where the first march for civil rights was violently repressed. This day was called "Bloody Sunday". The second march aborted on King's decision and the third one was a success as it obliged President Johnson to consider Civil Rights question as a priority legislation. Five months later, the Congress voted the law by 80% .

Cultural references

Jim Crow: Jim Crow was not a person, yet affected the lives of millions of people. Named after a popular 19th-century minstrel song that stereotyped African Americans, "Jim Crow" came to personify the system of government-sanctioned racial oppression and segregation in the United States. This body of law institutionalized a number of economic, educational, and social disadvantages.

- Eagle: Symbol of the United states



- The dream: refers to Martin Luther king's dream. It's one of his famous speeches which was delivered on August 1963 in Washington DC

Trial of justification

- Religious references are very present the lyrics of the song as the Civil Rights movement was mostly led by Martin Luther King or Jesse Jackson who were all pastors. The true faith of protesters and the transcendent power of King's speeches always referred to religious themes. It's a way to touch people's heart and to legitimate a discourse of justice between all the humans and to remind to the opponents that the Lord praises for justice and equality. it's a pastor's job to quote the Bible to convince people of the righteousness of their actions.

Act n°3: each group has to work on one of the following biographies or tell the story of a recent event. The expose will be done in front of the class

- Martin Luther King
- John legend
- Common
- Rosa parks
- Reverend Jackson
- Or on the consequences of Michael Brown assassination

Translate the following paragraph

*A king became regal
Saw the face of Jim Crow
Under a bald eagle
The biggest weapon is to stay peaceful
We sing, our music is the cuts
That we bleed through
Somewhere in the dream we had
An epiphany
Now we write the wrongs in history
No one can win the war individually
It takes the wisdom of the elders
And young people's energy
Welcome to the story
We call victory*

Translation of the former extract

- Un roi devenu prestigieux
- Se heurta aux lois Jim Crow
- Sous l'aigle chauve
- La plus grande arme est de rester pacifique
- Nous chantons, notre musique est les coupures par lesquelles nous saignons
- Quelque part dans le rêve nous avons eu une épiphanie
- Maintenant nous inscrivons les méfaits dans l'Histoire
- Personne ne peut gagner cette guerre individuellement
- Cela nécessite la sagesse des anciens
- Et l'énergie des jeunes
- Bienvenu dans l'histoire que nous appelons victoire

Final Task:

- Explain the circumstances and the political context in which the song was written. Then, explain why Selma's director chose this song as a film's code title. In other words, what allowed them to find some analogies between the two situations and what the importance of the inner song references are.