

Kealy Toler

Song analysis

“Welcome to the future”

Music isn't made just for entertainment; it's also for telling a story. Songs actually have points that they are trying to get across to the listener. For example, the song “Welcome to the Future” by Brad Paisley has a powerful meaning. This new country song talks about what the world has become today. He thinks back on the games and the TVs that would have been cool to have when he was young. He thought they were impossible for him to have, but in the world today he's got everything that he had imagined and more. The other point of the song is how



people have changed from the past.

The song starts out by saying “I'd have given anything to have my own Pac Man game at home. I used to have to get a ride down to the arcade; now I've got it on my phone.” In this phrase he is insinuating that back when he was young the world didn't have all the technology that we have today. He would probably spend his whole day trying to get to the arcade when today all he has to do is pull it up on his phone. The song also says that everything he thought that he would never see in his lifetime is happening sooner than he imagined.

“I wish they could see this now, where they say this change can go. Cause I was on a video chat this morning with a company in Tokyo.” This is another quote from the song that talks about how the world has changed. In the preceding line he says his grandpa fought in

World War II. He informs us about his grandpa fighting against the Japanese to imply that we didn't get along with them. Then Paisley goes on to say that he was on a video chat this morning with people in Japan. This is saying that the world has changed dramatically because not many years ago the United States was in a war with Japan and today we are allies and coworkers.



In my lifetime, I have already witnessed a major historical event. Many years ago people would have never imagined having a black president. In this song he makes a good point about how Americans acted when he was in high school compared to how we act today. Paisley talks about his friend in high school getting picked on for asking out the homecoming queen. “I thought about him today, everybody who's seen what he's seen, from a woman on a bus to a man with a dream. He-e-ey... Wake up Martin Luther. Welcome to the future.” In this quote he is thinking about all the people who were mistreated for being black. The woman on a bus that he is talking about is Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks wanted equal rights for blacks and whites and so did the man with a dream, Martin Luther King. Paisley is telling them to wake up now and realize that blacks and whites are now equal.

Overall the main point of this song is to inform everyone that the world has changed, whether we like it or not. He also stresses the fact that we have new technologies that let us have the life we have always wanted. Also as the song progresses, the importance of the event that he

is talking about gets more life changing. This song is more like a story than a song, because it tells some of the history of America.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwKht1_SyXU>

Lyrics:

When I was ten years old
I remember thinking how cool it would be
When we were going on an eight-hour drive
If I could just watch TV
And I'd have given anything
To have my own Pac-Man game at home
I used to have to get a ride down to the arcade
Now I've got it on my phone

Chorus:

Hey, glory, glory, hallelujah
Welcome to the future

My grandpa was in World War 2
He fought against the Japanese
He wrote a hundred letters to my grandma
Mailed them from his base in the Philippines
I wish they could see this now
Will they say it's changed a note

'Cause I was on a video chat this morning
With a company in Tokyo

Chorus:

Hey, every day's a revolution
Welcome to the future

Hey, look around it's all so clear
Hey, wherever we were going, well we're here
Hey, so many things I never thought I'd see
Happening right in front of me

I had a friend in school
Running back of the football team
They burned a cross in his front yard
For asking out the homecoming queen
I thought about him today
And everybody who seen what he seen
From a woman on a bus
To a man with a dream

Chorus:

Hey, wake up Martin Luther
Hey, glory, glory, hallelujah
Welcome to the future

