



Thriller – Michael Jackson – Notes



- **Activity type:** Listening for incorrect words. Role-playing and describing a video.
- **Time:** 20 mins. One hour with video .
- **Note:** This video was the most expensive video ever made when it was released in 1983. Directed by John Landis, and featuring the voice of legendary horror actor Vincent Price, it is almost 14 minutes long, and is not suitable for a younger audience. The following worksheet is based on the video version of the song, available on the Downloadable Worksheets page of the Teachers' Area of www.tuneintoenglish.com. The verse/chorus sequence in the original recording is different – this could be an ordering activity in class.

1) Ask students if they like horror stories. Elicit or pre-teach the following vocabulary:

beast
blood
crawl

demons
evil
freeze

full moon
ghouls
scream

shiver
terror
werewolf

- 2) Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Explain there is one incorrect word in each line.
- 3) Play the video (start at 4 mins 40 seconds), but use only the audio – do not let students watch the visuals yet. Students listen and underline the incorrect words.
- 4) Allow them to check their answers with other students, and then play the song again - students write the correct word in each line.
- 5) Correct, and sing together.
- 6) Show students the video from the beginning to 3 mins 44 seconds. Ask them to describe the characters, and say what happened.
 - Where are they?
 - Why do they stop?
 - What do they do?
 - What does he ask her?
 - What does he give her?
 - What does he tell her?
 - What does he turn into?
- 7) Give students a copy of the video script (higher levels could write the dialogue as a dictation). Fold the page over, so as they do not see the description yet.
- 8) Play the video again (to 4 mins 40 seconds). In pairs, students first mime the script, then speak with (or repeat after) the characters. Finally they role-play the dialogue.
- 9) Tell students they will describe the video. Play the complete song (to save time, you can start from 4' 40"). (For eagle-eyed viewers: What is written on the gravestone? Solution below!)
- 10) Feedback, then look at the Wikipedia description.

Solution: What is written on the gravestone? CLAIRE SISK REEVES

Note: the original recording has a verse not included in the video.

Incorrect words:

Dark creatures call
And the dead start to crawl in their masquerade
There's no escapin' the jaws of the alien this night
(They're very wide)
This is the time of your life

Correct words:

Night creatures call
And the dead start to **walk** in their masquerade
There's no escapin' the jaws of the alien this **time**
(They're **open** wide)
This is the **end** of your life



Thriller – Michael Jackson



It's close to morning and something evil's lurking in the dark
Under the moonlight you see a sight that nearly stops your heart
You try to shout but terror takes the sound before you make it
You start to freeze as horror hits you right between the eyes,
It's paralysed

You see the door slam and realise there's nowhere left to run
You feel the old hand and wonder if you'll ever see the sun
You close your eyes and pray that this is just imagination
Girl, but all the while you feel the creature creepin' up ahead
You're out of sight

They're out to get you, there's demons closing in on every corner
They will possess you unless you change the picture on your dial
Now is the moment for you and I to cuddle close together, yeah
All through the night I'll protect you from the terror on the screen,
I'll make you feel

Darkness comes across the land
The midnight flower is close at hand
Creatures crawl in search of love
And terrorise y'all's neighbourhood
And whosoever shall be lost
Without the soul for getting up
Must sit and face the hounds of hell
And rot outside a corpse's shell

The foulest stench is in the room
The funk of forty million years
And grizzly ghouls in every tomb
Are closing in to seal their doom
And though you fight to stay safe
Your body begins to shiver
For no mere mortal can survive
The evil of my thriller

For this is thriller, thriller night
And no one's gonna keep you from the beast about to strike
You see its thriller, thriller night
You're fighting for your future inside a killer, thriller tonight

Thriller, thriller now
'cos I will thrill you more than any ghost would dare to try
Thriller, thriller now
So let me squeeze you tight and share a killer, diller, chiller
Thriller here alright

For this is thriller, thriller now
'cos I will thrill you more than any ghost would dare to try
Boy, this is thriller, thriller night
So let me squeeze you tight and share a killer, diller.

(Manic laughter)





Thriller – Michael Jackson –Correct



It's close to **midnight** and something evil's lurking in the dark
Under the moonlight you see a sight that **almost** stops your heart
You try to **scream** but terror takes the sound before you make it
You start to freeze as horror **looks** you right between the eyes,
You're paralysed

You **hear** the door slam and realise there's nowhere left to run
You feel the **cold** hand and wonder if you'll ever see the sun
You close your eyes and **hope** that this is just imagination
Girl, but all the while you feel the creature creepin' up **behind**
You're out of **time**

They're out to get you, there's demons closing in on every **side**
They will possess you unless you change the **number** on your dial
Now is the **time** for you and I to cuddle close together, yeah
All through the night I'll **save** you from the terror on the screen,
I'll make you **see**

Darkness **falls** across the land
The midnight **hour** is close at hand
Creatures crawl in search of **blood**
To terrorise y'all's neighbourhood
And whosoever shall be **found**
Without the soul for getting **down**
Must **stand** and face the hounds of hell
And rot **inside** a corpse's shell

The foulest stench is in the **air**
The funk of forty **thousand** years
And grizzly ghouls **from** every tomb
Are closing in to seal **your** doom
And though you fight to stay **alive**
Your body **starts** to shiver
For no mere mortal can **resist**
The evil of **the** thriller

'**Cos** this is thriller, thriller night
And no one's gonna **save** you from the beast about to strike
You **know** its thriller, thriller night
You're fighting for your **life** inside a killer, thriller tonight

Thriller, thriller **night**
'cos I **can** thrill you more than any ghost would dare to try
Thriller, thriller **night**
So let me **hold** you tight and share a killer, diller, chiller
Thriller here **tonight**

'**Cos** this is thriller, thriller now
'cos I **can** thrill you more than any ghost would dare to try
Girl, this is thriller, thriller night
So let me **hold** you tight and share a killer, diller.

(Manic laughter)





Thriller – Michael Jackson –Script



(In woods)

Michael: Honestly, we're out of gas.
 Girl: So, what are we going to do now?

(Walk together)

Girl: I'm sorry I didn't believe you.
 Michael: Can I ask you something?
 Girl: What?
 Michael: You know I like you, don't you?
 Girl: Yes.
 Michael: And I hope you like me the way I like you.
 Girl: Yes.
 Michael: I just wondered if you would be my girl?

Girl: Oh Michael!

(Embrace, he gives her ring)

It's beautiful.

Michael: Now it's official.

(She looks at ring)

Michael: I have something I want to tell you.
 Girl: Yes, Michael?
 Michael: I'm not like other guys.
 Girl: Of course not. That's why I love you.
 Michael: No, I mean I'm different.
 Girl: What are you talking about?

(Michael starts his transformation)

Girl: Are you alright?
 Michael: Go away!

(Girls screams)



(In cinema)

Girl: Can we get out of here?
 Michael: No, I'm enjoying it.
 Girl: Well, I can't watch. Excuse me.

(Girl leaves, Michael follows her)

Michael: It's only a movie.
 Girl: It's not funny.
 Michael: You were scared, weren't you?
 Girl: I wasn't *that* scared.
 Michael: Yeah, you were scared.

Description:

Michael and his date (Ola Ray) run out of gas in a dark, wooded area. They walk off into the forest, and Michael asks her if she would like to go steady. She accepts and he gives her a ring. He warns her, however, that he is "not like other guys". A full moon appears, and Michael begins convulsing - transforming into a horrifying werewolf. His date shrieks and runs away, but the werewolf catches up, knocking her down and begins lunging at her with its claws.

The scene cuts away to a movie theater (the Palace Theatre in Hollywood) where Michael and his date - along with a repulsed audience - are actually watching this scene unfold in a movie called *Thriller*. Michael smiles but his date is frightened, and tells him she's leaving. Michael catches up to her, exclaiming "It's only a movie!" Some debate follows over whether or not she was scared by the scene; she denies it, but Michael disagrees.

Michael and his date then walk down a foggy street, and he teases her with the opening verses of "Thriller". They pass a possessed graveyard, where corpses suddenly begin to rise from their graves, as Vincent Price recites a verse. Michael and his date then find themselves surrounded by the zombies, and suddenly, Michael becomes a zombie himself. Michael and the undead perform an elaborate song and dance number together, frightening his girlfriend to the point where she runs for cover.

The girl is chased into an abandoned house, where the zombies and Michael slowly approach her. Right before they reach her, she wakes up and realizes that it was all a dream. As Michael asks "What's the problem?", he offers to take her home, but as the video ends Michael glances back at the camera, grins, and reveals his monster yellow eyes (accompanied by Vincent Price offering one last haunting laugh).

After the credits, when they concurrently show the zombie dancing again, the disclaimer humourously states, "Any similarity to actual events or persons living, dead, (or undead) is purely coincidental." Landis' *An American Werewolf in London* likewise offered this disclaimer.

- from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thriller_\(music_video\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thriller_(music_video))