



- **Activity types:** gap fill, summarising, discussion or writing.
- **Grammar:** future *will*.
- **Time:** 60 minutes
- **Note:** This was a 1976 hit for Harold Melvin & The Bluenotes, featuring Teddy Pendergrass. It is a call for action, and was covered in 2004 by an all star American cast (including Brandy, Mary J. Blige and Wyclef Jean) to encourage young people to vote in the presidential election. The 2010 John Legend & The Roots version is taken from their politically-themed album "Wake Up!", and features Melanie Fiona and rapper Common.

- 1) Write the words **WORLD PROBLEMS** on the board. Ask the students to brainstorm some ideas. Write their answers on board as a spidergram.
- 2) Ask students "**Who do you think is responsible for making the world a better place?**" Try to elicit the following people, and how they can help (from the song):
 - Teachers (teach a new way), doctors (make the old people well), builders (build a new land)
- 3) Give students a copy of the worksheet and ask them to look at the lyrics. Explain any difficult vocabulary. Allow them some time to try to insert the words, based on context. Do not expect them to be able to complete this without listening!
- 4) Play the song and ask them to fill in the gaps in the lyrics.
- 5) Ask them to look at the rap (*in italics*), then to complete the second exercise.

Key: When I wake up in the morning I thank God. Even though my mum says I come from bad people, I'm trying to write a sweet song. I'm trying to be sincere. Even when I was in trouble I believed in God. There's so much suffering in the world: earthquakes, wars, rumours; but I want us to get by (= *to survive*) . I think man is good as we are more than consumers, looters and shooters. We have been created in God's image.
I really think the world can be a better place. We can change things if we love each other. Love can reboot even our computer generation.
- 6) **Grammar activity on "future will"**
Ask them to underline all the examples of "future will" they can find in the text and then to make predictions about the future of the world.
You can help them with suggestions such as the environment, the fight against poverty and hunger, war, consumerism, technology. Will the world be a better place or a worse place to live in?
- 7) Sing the song together.
- 8) **Follow up**
(This can also be given as a written homework exercise).
Put the students in groups of three or four and ask them to discuss the following questions. Ask one member for each group report what they have talked about.
 - Do you think man will be able to solve some of world problems in the future ?
 - What can you do to make things better? What are you going to do?

CAN WE MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE ?



Wake Up Everybody – John Legend & The Roots



Complete the song with the following words.

children / world / hatred / old people / war / change / a new land / teachers / teach / listen / suffer / build / lend a hand / poverty / doctors / wake up / work out / let it be

_____ everybody
No more sleepin' in bed
No more backward thinkin'
Time for thinkin' ahead



The _____ has changed so very much
From what it used to be
There is so much _____
_____ and _____, whoa, oh yeah

Wake up, all the _____
Time to _____ a new way
Maybe then they'll _____
To what you have to say

'Cause they're the ones who's coming up
And the world is in their hands
When you teach the _____
Teach them the very best you can, oh yeah

The world won't get no better
If we just _____ na, na, na
The world won't get no better
We gotta change it, yeah
Just you and me

Wake up, all the _____
Make the _____ well
They're the ones who _____
And who catch all the hell

But they don't have so very long
Before their Judgement Day
So won't you make them happy
Before they pass away, oh yeah

Wake up, all the _____
Time to build _____
I know we can do it
If we all _____

The only thing we have to do
Is put it in our minds
Surely things will _____
Cause they do it every time

The world won't get no better
If we just let it be, oh
The world won't get no better
We gotta _____ it, yeah
Just you and me, yeah

*It's the God hour
The morning I wake up
Just for the breath of life I thank my maker
My mom say I come from hustlers and shakers
My mind built it on skyscrapers and acres
He said take us back to where we belong
I try to write a song
As sweet as these arms the one the type to bare arms
And wear my heart on my sleeve
Even when I fell in God I believe
Read the days that weave through the maze
And the seasons so amazing
Feed them and raise them
Seasons are aging
Earthquakes, wars, and rumours
I want us to get by but
We're more than consumers
We're more than shooters, more than looters
Created in this image so God live through us
And even in this generation, living through computers
Only love love love can reboot us*

Wake up, everybody, no more sleepin' in bed, oh
Wake up, everybody, yeah
Said I need a little help, y'all
Need a little help

Need a little help, y'all ay, come on, come on
Come on, come on
Need a little help, y'all, can't do it all
Need a little help, y'all
Need a little help, y'all, can't do it all

Wake up everybody
Wake up everybody
Wake up everybody

The rap is by Common. Complete the summary using the words given.

reboot / wake up / God (x2) / people / trouble / computer / wars / rumours / get by / consumers / looters / sweet / better place / love (x2) / earthquakes / shooters / image

When I _____ in the morning I thank _____. Even though my mum says I come from bad _____, I'm trying to write a _____ song. I'm trying to be sincere. Even when I was in _____ I believed in _____. There's so much suffering in the world: _____, _____, _____; but I want us to _____ (= to survive). I think man is good as we are more than _____, _____ and _____. We have been created in God's _____. I really think the world can be a _____. We can change things if we _____ each other. _____ can _____ even our _____ generation.



Wake Up Everybody – John Legend & The Roots - Complete



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No more backward thinkin'
Time for thinkin' ahead

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From what it used to be
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war and poverty, whoa, oh yeah

Wake up, all the teachers
Time to teach a new way
Maybe then they'll listen
To what you have to say

'Cause they're the ones who's coming up
And the world is in their hands
When you teach the children
Teach them the very best you can, oh yeah

The world won't get no better
If we just let it be na, na, na
The world won't get no better
We gotta change it, yeah
Just you and me

Wake up, all the doctors
Make the old people well
They're the ones who suffer
And who catch all the hell

But they don't have so very long
Before their Judgement Day
So won't you make them happy
Before they pass away, oh yeah

Wake up, all the builders
Time to build a new land
I know we can do it
If we all lend a hand

The only thing we have to do
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Surely things will work out
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