



Working Class Hero – John Lennon – Notes



- **Activity type:** identify correct word.
- **Note:** This was released on Lennon's first solo album, 1970's *Plastic Ono Band*. He told the magazine Rolling Stone: "I think it's for the people like me who are working class - whatever, upper or lower - who are supposed to be processed into the middle classes, through the machinery, that's all. It's my experience, and I hope it's just a warning to people. I'm saying it's a revolutionary song; not the song itself but that it's a song for the revolution."
 - Green Day covered this song for the 2007 album *Instant Karma: The Amnesty International Campaign to Save Darfur*.
 - This song may be useful to introduce a discussion on the class system.
 - Note that this song features the word "fucking", so may not be suitable for all learners.

- 1) Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Ask them to read the lyrics and guess what the correct word might be.
- 2) Play the song. Students cross out the incorrect words.
- 3) Feedback, then sing the song together.

Complete lyrics:

As soon as you're born they make you feel **small**
by giving you no **time** instead of it all
till the pain is so big you **feel** nothing at all

a working class hero is something to **be**
a working class hero is something to **be**

They hurt you at home and they **hit** you at school
they hate you if you're clever and they despise a **fool**
till you're so fucking crazy you can't follow their **rules**

a working class hero is something to **be**
a working class hero is something to **be**

When they've tortured and scared you for twenty **odd** years
then they expect you to pick a **career**
when you can't really function you're so full of **fear**

a working class hero is something to **be**
a working class hero is something to **be**

Keep you doped with religion and sex and **tv**
and you think you're so clever and classless and **free**
but you're still fucking peasants as far as i can **see**

a working class hero is something to **be**
a working class hero is something to **be**

There's room at the top they are telling you **still**
but first you must learn how to smile as you **kill**
if you want to be like the folks on the **hill**

A working class hero is something to **be**
a working class hero is something to **be**

if you want to be a hero well just follow me



Working Class Hero – John Lennon



Listen to the song and underline the correct option.

As soon as you're born they make you feel **tall/small**
by giving you no **time/dime** instead of it all
till the pain is so big you **feel/fell** nothing at all

a working class hero is something to **see/be**
a working class hero is something to **see/be**

They hurt you at home and they **hit/bit** you at school
they hate you if you're clever and they despise a **fool/tool**
till you're so fucking crazy you can't follow their **rules/blues**

a working class hero is something to **see/be**
a working class hero is something to **see/be**

When they've tortured and scared you for twenty-**old/odd** years
then they expect you to pick a **career/job**
when you can't really function you're so full of **tears/fear**

a working class hero is something to **see/be**
a working class hero is something to **see/be**

Keep you doped with religion and sex and **tv/rock and roll**
and you think you're so clever and classless and **tree/free**
but you're still fucking peasants as far as i can **see/meet**

a working class hero is something to **see/be**
a working class hero is something to **see/be**

There's room at the top they are telling you **still/sit**
but first you must learn how to smile as you **die/kill**
if you want to be like the folks on the **hill/mountain**

a working class hero is something to **see/be**
a working class hero is something to **see/be**

if you want to be a hero well just follow me