“brand new me” – Alicia Keys

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| **Read the following lyrics and annotate for figurative language and meaning.**  It's been a while, I'm not who I was before. You look surprised, your words don't burn me anymore.  Been meaning to tell you, but I guess it's clear to see. Don't be mad, it's just the brand new kind of me. Can't be bad, I found a brand new kind of free. Careful with your ego, he's the one that we should blame. Had to grab my heart back.  God know something had to change. I thought that you'd be happy. I found the one thing I need, why you mad? It's just the brand new kind of me. Never bad, I found a brand new kind of free. Oh, it took a long, long road to get here. It took a brave, brave girl to try.  It took one too many excuses, one too many lies. Don't be surprised, don't be surprised. If I walk a little taller, If I speak up when you're wrong, If I walk a little taller, I've been under you too long.  If you noticed that I'm different, Don't take it personally. Don't be mad, it's just the brand new kind of free. Oh, it took a long, long road to get here. It took a brave, brave girl to try. I've taken one too many excuses, one too many lies. Don't be surprised, oh see you look surprised.  Hey, if you were a friend, you’d want to get know me again. If you were worth a while, You'd be happy to see me smile. I'm not expecting sorry. I'm too busy finding myself. I got this.  I found me, I found me, yeah. I don't need your opinion.  I'm not waiting for your ok.  I'll never be perfect, but at least now I'm brave. Now, my heart is open. And I can finally breathe  Don't be mad, it's just the brand new kind of free. That ain't bad, I found a brand new kind of me. Don't be mad, it's just a brand new time for me. | **After reading the lyrics and while viewing the music video for this song, answer the following questions.**   1. What type of relationship does the artist seem to have with the man at the beginning of the video? Why do you think this? 2. What type of mood is established at the beginning of the music video? How is this mood established? 3. Describe the author’s tone (attitude toward topic about which author is speaking)? Cite at least two pieces of textual evidence (either from the video or the lyrics) to support this. 4. What symbols are on display in the music video? What might they symbolize? 5. What happens to the artist’s hair near the end of the video? Why is this significant? |

“Love and War” – Tamar Braxton

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| **Read the following lyrics and annotate for figurative language and meaning.**  Somebody said everyday was gon' be sunny skies. Only Marvin Gaye and lingerie, I guess somebody lied. Started discussing it to fighting then don't touch me please. Then it's let's stop the madness, just come lay with me. Truth be told, I'm waving my flag before it goes bad. Cause we made it this far on for better or worse. I want to feel it even if it hurts. If I gotta cry to get to the other side. Let's go cause we gon' survive. We stay on the frontlines, yeah but we're still here after the bomb drops. We go so hard, we lose control. The fire starts, then we explode. When the smoke clears, we dry our tears. Only in love and war. Sometimes you're my general. You quarterback all these plays. Sometimes you're my enemy. And I'm throwing grenades. We'll just be chillin' and laughing. And I'm laying on your chest. Don't know what happened, cause things just went left. But here we go back down that road. That's just the way that it goes. Cause we made it this far for better or worse. I want to feel it even if it hurts. If I gotta cry to get to the other side. As long as you're there I'll survive. We stay on the frontlines, yeah but we're still here after the bomb drops. We go so hard, we lose control. The fire starts, then we explode.  When the smoke clears, we dry our tears. Only in love and war. As long as we make up after every fight when it's over. You know I'm coming home. Right back where I belong. I take it up inside me. And we stay on the frontlines, yeah but we're still here after the bomb drops. We go so hard, we lose control. The fire starts, then we explode.  When the smoke clears, we dry our tears. Only in love and war. | **After reading the lyrics, answer the following questions.**   1. Who is Marvin Gaye? What does the artist mean by saying that everyday was going to be “sunny skies…only Marvin Gaye and lingerie”?      1. What does the artist juxtapose throughout the song?      1. What might the waving of the flag in the 5th line symbolize?      1. By referring to the “frontlines” and “bombs” dropping, what does the artist compare love to? Why does she do this? What is she trying to emphasize about love?      1. What does the expression “things just went left” mean based on context?      1. Which relationship in Their Eyes Were Watching God best resembles the relationship described in this song? Provide an explanation. |

“I Can’t Do That Anymore” – faith hill

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| **Read the following lyrics and annotate for figurative language and meaning.**  Cut my hair the way you wanted. Watched you become important. Quit my job to make our new home far away. Now you're Mr. Successful and I'm queen of the treadmill. Trying to stay the size you think that I should stay. I used to dream about what I would be. Last night I dreamed about a washing machine. I keep on giving, But I can't stop living. A woman needs a little something of her own. I like happy endings. I don't like depending. I keep right on pretending. But I can't do that anymore. Now you say I'm being silly. But you don't know me really. You never take the time to ask me how I feel. I keep the checkbook balanced, I decorate your palace. You know I used to think that you were king. Somewhere down deep I know you really love me, But you can't see that what we have's not all I needed. I keep on giving, But I can't stop living. A woman needs a little something of her own. I like happy endings. I don't like depending. I keep right on pretending, But I can't do that anymore. You try to tell me I'm not being fair to you, But life's too short for a selfish attitude. I keep on giving, But I can't stop living. A woman needs a little something of her own. I like happy endings. I don't like depending. I keep right on pretending. But I can't do that anymore. | **After reading the lyrics and while viewing the music video for this song, answer the following questions.**   1. What do the first three lines of this song remind you of from *Their Eyes Were Watching God*?      1. What does the artist mean by “I’m queen of the treadmill”? What does it suggest? 2. What’s the significance of the artist’s initial dream and the dream she had “last night”?      1. How does the artist view her lover? How does this change?      1. What lesson does the singer seem to learn about the importance of self-identity? |