



Sing for Hull

With the Albemarle Broadband



Week 3 – (Something Inside) So Strong Listening Activities

(Something Inside) So Strong was written and originally performed by British singer, songwriter, poet and musician Labe Siffre. The song has also been covered by other artists so there are different versions you can compare. Listen to the original version of *(Something Inside) So Strong* and answer these questions:

1. What genre of music do you think this song is?
2. The song was written after Labe Siffre watched an upsetting documentary about the Apartheid in South Africa. What is the message in the lyrics of the song?
3. In the lyrics, one line starts with '*Brothers and Sisters*'. Who do you think Labi Siffre means by this?
4. Think of the structure of the song. Can you identify the *verse, chorus, intro* and *bridge (middle 8)*?
5. Listen to the instruments in this song and the way they are played. How does this reflect the mood of the song? How is this different to the songs from the last two weeks?
6. Do you like the song? Why?
7. Can you think of any other songs with a strong message?

(Something Inside) So Strong – Did you know?

Did you know that *(Something Inside) So Strong* is sometimes described as a **Protest Song**. Protest songs are songs that spread a powerful message and draw the listeners' attention to something that is happening in the world that the writer thinks is wrong. Many protest songs date back hundreds of years and can be found in traditional music. One famous protest song from the 1970s is *Imagine*, which was written by **John Lennon** during the Vietnam War. The lyrics asks the listener to think of a world with no war and to '*imagine all the people, living life in peace*'.