



Sing for Hull

With the Albemarle Broadband



Week 8 – Lean on Me Listening Activities

Lean on me was written by American singer-songwriter Bill Withers and released in 1972 on his second album *Still Bill*. The song has become very popular over the years and has been covered by many different artists. Listen to the original version of the song and answer these questions:

1. What words would you use to describe the style of the song?
2. Bill Withers wrote the song having been inspired by the community spirit shown in his hometown. Why do you think the phrase '*Lean on me*' came into his mind?
3. The Bridge is the section that starts "You just call on me brother...." How does this sound different to the rest of the song?
4. Can you identify the sections of the song: Intro, Verse, Chorus, Bridge and Coda?
5. After his first album, Bill could finally afford to buy himself a small Wurlitzer electric piano. It was whilst playing this he came up with the song. Can you hear the electric piano in this song? How important is it throughout the piece?
6. Do you like the song? Why?
7. This song has been covered by many different artists and has been performed at many important events, including a concert celebrating the inauguration of Barack Obama as president of the United States. Listen to some other versions of the song. Do you have a favourite?
8. Can you think of any other inspirational songs that encourage people to help each other?

Lean on Me – Did you know?

Did you know that *Lean On Me* is often performed during charity events to raise funds at times of crisis. This is because of its inspirational lyrics about helping other people at times of need. A couple of famous examples include a 2010 performance for *Hope for Haiti: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief*, an advert for Red Cross donations after Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and, more recently, a 2020 charity single to support the Red Cross in Canada following their response to Covid-19.