



Sing for Hull

With the Albemarle Broadband



Week 15 – Reach Listening Activities

Reach was released in 2000 by the English band S-Club 7. It was co-written by Cathy Dennis and Andrew Todd. *Reach* featured on S-Club 7's second studio album, 7. The song is full of inspirational messages. Listen to *Reach* and answer these questions:

1. What genre do you think the song belongs to?
2. The lyrics of the chorus are about trying hard to achieve your aims in life. What images are used to represent this?
3. Listen to the chorus. There are claps and clicks throughout on beats 2 and 4? Try to join in and clap or click along in time to the beat.
4. The vocals for this song are shared across the different band members. Listen carefully, can you hear the different voices?
5. In the final repeats of the chorus the backing vocals sing in *scat*, where the lyrics are made up of nonsense syllables; '*Doo wop, shoop – bop - a doo wop*'. Can you hear this? You could try to sing along.
6. After the bridge section, there is something called a *breakdown* (see below). Can you hear how the texture becomes thin, with instruments dropping out? It then builds up, adding instruments back in, leading towards the chorus repeats.
7. Can you identify the structure of the original song using the terms: Intro, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Breakdown and Outro?
8. Do you like the song *Reach*? Why? Can you see why it is remembered as a *Pop* classic from the year 2000?

Reach – Did you know?

Reach is the first Sing for Hull song that contains a **Breakdown**. A **Breakdown** is a section in the song where the mood suddenly changes. This is used to build tension and is followed by the **Build Up**, which leads towards a *release point*, known as the **Drop**. Lots of different techniques are used to create **Breakdowns**. Often the instruments drop out suddenly, returning in layers, and short solo lines appear over the top from the instruments or vocalists. This all builds towards the final Chorus, which often has a **Key Change**. Can you spot the breakdown in *Reach* ("*I said reach. Climb every mountain...*")?