



# Unit 1 Reading Worksheet 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Read the title, look at the photos and mark (✓) the words you might find in the article.

- |           |                          |              |                          |          |                          |         |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| famous    | <input type="checkbox"/> | scandal      | <input type="checkbox"/> | talent   | <input type="checkbox"/> | reasons | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| important | <input type="checkbox"/> | amazing      | <input type="checkbox"/> | mistakes | <input type="checkbox"/> | singer  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| betrayed  | <input type="checkbox"/> | appreciation | <input type="checkbox"/> |          |                          |         |                          |

## Emotional Responses to Music



**T**hink about the music you like. Now think about the artists who play or sing your favorite **tunes**. If you are like most of us, you will probably picture them in glamorous situations. On many occasions, the lyrics or the feeling of a song can make us feel like the songwriter understands us perfectly.

Our reaction to music is totally emotional and this can make us believe that the singers we like deserve to be loved. It may also lead us to think that they have certain personal qualities that deserve our respect; we **relate** to the songs, so we believe the artists think and act like us. This immediately makes them “good” people in our opinion, although we have never met them personally.

That is why, **whenever** a scandal around famous people surfaces, most fans feel betrayed and cheated. After **blindly** following our heroes’ music, their behavior might be disappointing.

Once fans are disappointed, their musical appreciation is also affected. In other words, the **wrong-doings** from our idols can have a negative effect on the way we feel about their music. When the Michael Jackson scandal made its way into the

public light, a lot of his fans stopped listening to his music but, if we really think about it, “Thriller” is the same song it was when it was released back in 1982.

It is also important to remember, however, that musical artists are normal people just like us, with their own sets of problems and situations in life that can sometimes affect the way they behave. The main difference between many artists and us is that their lives are displayed in public for everyone to see. There’s nothing the media likes more than to publish controversial stories about celebrities, especially those that behave badly.

In the end, we all need to remember that there may be incredible lyrics, tunes and **rhythms** in the songs we love, but that they do not necessarily represent the person who performs them. Songs are a reflection of how artists feel at a certain moment in their lives. This is why it is always better for people to concentrate on the music, rather than on the celebrity: by doing this, the ideas and feelings that connect us to a song will not be easily changed because of outside factors.

### Glossary

**tunes:** songs

**relate:** to establish an association or connection

**whenever:** at any time

**blindly:** uncritically, with no questions

**wrong-doings:** behavior or action that is wrong

**rhythm:** the pattern of regular or irregular pulses caused in music

## 2 Read again and match the parts of the sentences.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 0. “Thriller” was released                     | a. we may believe they are like us.              |
| 1. If we identify with someone’s music,        | b. because they idolize them.                    |
| 2. The work of an artist                       | c. in 1982.                                      |
| 3. When a scandal arises,                      | d. some fans decided not to listen to his music. |
| 4. Some fans follow singers blindly            | e. some fans feel cheated.                       |
| 5. When Michael Jackson was accused of crimes, | f. the music and not on the celebrity.           |
| 6. It is better to focus on                    | g. does not always represent who they are.       |



**Stop and Think!** What music do you like now that you didn’t like before?