Mean Mean” lyrics ©Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

You, with your words like knives

And swords and weapons that you use against me

You have knocked me off my feet again

Got me feeling like a nothing

You, with your voice like nails on a chalkboard

Calling me out when I'm wounded

You picking on the weaker man

Well you can take me down with just one single blow

But you don't know, what you don't know...

Someday I'll be living in a big ol' city

And all you're ever going to be is mean

Someday I'll be big enough so you can't hit me

And all you're ever going to be is mean

Why you gotta be so mean?

You, with your switching sides

And your wildfire lies and your humiliation

You have pointed out my flaws again

As if I don't already see them

I walk with my head down

Trying to block you out 'cause I'll never impress you

I just wanna feel okay again

I bet you got pushed around

Somebody made you cold

But the cycle ends right now

Cause you can't lead me down that road

And you don't know, what you don't know...

Someday I'll be living in a big ol' city

And all you're ever going to be is mean

Someday I'll be big enough so you can't hit me

And all you're ever going to be is mean

Why you gotta be so mean?

And I can see you years from now in a bar

Talking over a football game

With that same big loud opinion

But nobody's listening

Washed up and ranting about the same old bitter things

Drunk and grumbling on about how I can't sing

But all you are is mean

All you are is mean

And a liar, and pathetic, and alone in life

And mean, and mean, and mean, and mean

But someday I'll be living in a big ol' city

And all you're ever going to be is mean, yeah yeah

Someday I'll be big enough so you can't hit me

And all you're ever going to be is mean

Why you gotta be so mean?

Someday I'll be living in a big ol' city

And all you're ever going to be is mean, yeah yeah

Someday I'll be big enough so you can't hit me

And all you're ever going to be is mean

Why you gotta be so mean?

Reading Skills

1. Find two similes in the first stanza.
2. What does the first simile mean?
3. What does the second simile mean?
4. In the first three lines of stanza one, what can we infer about the relationship between the singer and the person she is singing about? (2)
5. To which sense does the imagery in line 5 appeal?
6. Why do you think ‘wildfire’ is used to describe lies? (2)
7. What does the writer/singer reveal about herself in stanza two?
8. In stanza three, lines one and two, what reason does the writer infer for the man’s poor treatment of her? (2)
9. Is this a valid opinion? (2)
10. What does the writer predict will happen to the man in the future? (2)
11. How does the writer see *her* future? (2)
12. Which is stronger: kindness or meanness? (2)