

Topic: Me and My Environment
Song Text: Lukas Graham, 7 Years

Lukas Graham, 7 Years¹

Refrain²:

Once I was seven years old, my mama told me,
"Go make yourself some friends or you'll be lonely."
Once I was seven years old.

Chorus³ One:

It was a big big world, but we _____ we were bigger.
Pushing each other to the limits, we _____ quicker.
By eleven smoking herb⁴ and _____ burning liquor.⁵
Never _____ so we were out to make that steady figure.⁶

Refrain:

Once I was eleven years old, my daddy told me,
"Go get yourself a wife or you'll be lonely."
Once I was eleven years old.

Chorus Two:

I always _____ that dream, like my daddy before me.
So I started writing songs, I started _____ stories.
Something about that glory just always seemed to bore me.
'Cause only those I really _____ will ever really know me

Refrain:

Once I was twenty years old, my story got told,
Before the morning sun, when life was lonely.
Once I was twenty years old.

(Lukas Graham!)

Chorus Three:

I only see my goals, I don't _____ in failure⁷.
'Cause I know the smallest _____, they can make it major.⁸
I got my _____ with me, at least those in favor.⁹
And if we don't _____ before I leave, I hope I'll see you later.

Refrain:

Once I was twenty years old, my story got told.
I was writing about everything I saw before me.
Once I was twenty years old.

Soon we'll be thirty years old, our songs have been sold.

1 <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/lukasgraham/7years.html>

2 refrain: Refrain

3 chorus: Strophe

4 to smoke herb: Kräuter als eine Droge rauchen

5 liquor: Schnaps

6 to make a steady figure: gute Figur abgeben / solide sein

7 failure: persönliches Scheitern

8 major: big

9 in favo(u)r: bevorzugt

We've traveled around the world and we're still roaming¹⁰.
Soon we'll be thirty years old.

Chorus Four:

I'm still _____ about life.
My woman brought _____ for me.
So I can sing them all my songs.
And I can _____ them stories.
Most of my _____ are with me.
Some are still out seeking glory¹¹.
And some I had to leave behind.
My _____, I'm still sorry.

Refrain:

Soon I'll be sixty years old, my daddy got sixty-one.
Remember life, and then your life becomes a better one.
I made a man so happy when I wrote a letter once.
I hope my children come and visit once or twice a month.

Soon I'll be sixty years old, will I think the world is cold,
Or will I have a lot of children who can warm me?
Soon I'll be sixty years old.

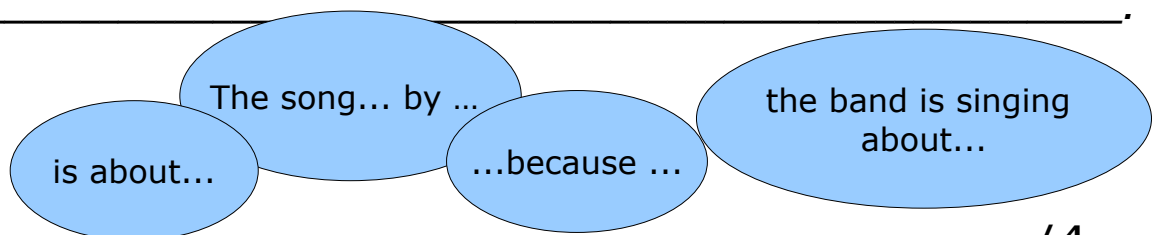
Soon I'll be sixty years old, will I think the world is cold
Or will I have a lot of children who can warm me?
Soon I'll be sixty years old.

Once I was seven years old, my mama told me,
"Go make yourself some friends or you'll be lonely."
Once I was seven years old.

Once I was seven years old.

Task One (Text Comprehension): Listen to the song and fill in the gaps (*)¹². ___ / 16

Task Two (Text Comprehension): Say in one sentence what the song is about. You can use my phrases as a help (*):**



___ / 4

10 to roam (the streets): durch die Straßen ziehen

11 to seek glory: nach Ruhm und Ehre streben

12 level of difficulty: * = easy ; ** = so so ; *** = difficult

Task Three (Text Comprehension): Say if the following statements are true. If not correct them. (*)

Example: _____

The band Lukas Graham sings that the singer/lyrical I¹³ was told by his mother that he had a lot of time to make friends.

Yes: _____ No: The band sings that "his" mother told him to quickly make some friends in order not to be lonely in the future.

1. At the age of eleven the singer was a very good boy who never did anything that was not allowed.

Yes: _____ No: _____

2. At the age of eleven the singer was told by his daddy to better stay single.

Yes: _____ No: _____

3. As a teenager the singer started writing pop songs to tell his stories to the people.

Yes: _____ No: _____

4. At the age of twenty the singer has already told his story so that by that time everybody knows who he is.

Yes: _____ No: _____

5. The singer has always been afraid of failures and he didn't have any goals in life.

Yes: _____ No: _____

6. As a teenager the singer always had his boys/friends with him.

Yes: _____ No: _____

7. The singer says that at the age of thirty his songs will have been sold.

Yes: _____ No: _____

8. In chorus four the band Lukas Graham sings about fatherhood (Vaterschaft).

Yes: _____ No: _____

9. In the last refrain the band sings that it does not matter if their future kids do not come to visit their parents.

Yes: _____ No: _____

10. The band singer finally asks himself if he will have a lot of children at the age of sixty.

Yes: _____ No: _____

___ / 10

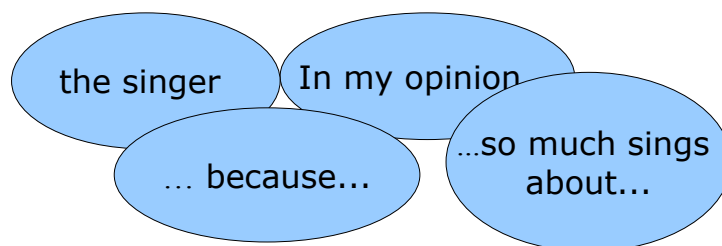
13 lyrical I: das lyrische „Ich“; gemeint ist das fiktive, nicht reale „Ich“, das den Songtext erzählt.

Task Six: Questions on the text (*):**

Answer the following questions on the lyrics (Once again you can use my phrases as a help -but you don't have, too!-).

1. Why do the singer's parents always tell the boy to make friends and to get himself a wife?

2. Why do you think does the singer so much want to write and sing about his life?



3. Why does the singer want to have a lot of children when he is old?

4. Do you like or dislike the song? Explain your decision (Entscheidung).

Task Eight: Vocabulary Fill in the gaps by using the correct terms.

self-discipline character trait well-organized impatient
goal explore new horizons nursery school teacher
live independently

Catherine's dream job is becoming a _____.

She knows that she has to be _____

in her job. She also has to show a lot of _____

because young kids can sometimes be very loud and demanding (fordernd).

Then Catherine needs to keep a clear head and stay cool.

Catherine also knows about her weakness (Schwäche). She can sometimes be

very _____. But her most positive _____

_____ is that she is a very empathetic and open-minded

(offen) person who likes children.

Catherine's future _____ is to _____

_____ from her parents. To her it is very important to stay on

her own two feet and to live together with her boyfriend.

In her free time Catherine likes to travel a lot. She thinks it is important to get in contact with people from other cultures. She says about herself that she is a person who wants to _____.

___/ 8

Choose one of the next two tasks...

Task Seven: (Text comprehension): Read the following information on the band *Lukas Graham* and answer the questions below. Write in your own words. ():**

About the Band¹⁴

Lukas Graham is a Danish pop and soul band with the lead singer [Lukas Forchhammer](#), drummer Mark Falgren, bassist Magnus Larsson, and keyboardist [Morten Ristorp](#). The band released¹⁵ their first album, *Lukas Graham* in 2012. The album became number one on the [Danish charts](#). Their [second album](#) was released in 2015 and earned international attention with singles like "[Mama Said](#)" and "[7 Years](#)". "7 Years" became number two on the [Billboard Hot 100](#) list (among other countries' charts).

Lukas Graham's music has been described as a mixture of pop and soul. In a review of the band's new album, journalist [Jon Pareles](#) of *The New York Times* described their sound as the place "where pop meets R&B¹⁶". Patrick Ryan of *USA Today* wrote that the band's songs "effortlessly¹⁷ blend elements of hip hop and folk". Lyrically, the songs often deal with¹⁸ experiences like growing up poor ("Mama Said") or drinking ("Drunk in the Morning"). The band's most popular song, "7 Years", describes growing up and aging at specific points in life (from seven years old to 60).

Lukas grew up in a self-governing artistic community¹⁹ in the middle of [Copenhagen](#) called [Christiania](#). The area is known for both its "utopian", creative atmosphere and relative poverty²⁰. His experiences growing up in the community have influenced both the sound of his music and the lyrics he writes.

1. Where is the band Lukas Graham from?

2. What kind of music does the band play?

3. What kind of experiences do the song texts often deal with?

4. Where did the singer Lukas grow up as a kid?

14 The text has been taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lukas_Graham. I have shortened and slightly changed the text to make it easier to understand.

15 to release an album: ein Plattenalbum veröffentlichen

16 R&B: music style

17 effortlessly: mühelos

18 to deal with: handeln von

19 self-governing artistic community: autonome Wohngemeinschaft von Künstlern

20 poverty: Armut

Task eight. (Background information): In The Shell study, published in 2015, German teenagers were asked what they personally believed to be important in their life. Write down what the findings (Ergebnisse) of the study are. Mention (Erwähne) aspects such as future occupation, family, politics, and the role of social media. You can use my English phrases as a help.()**

In 2015 German teenagers were asked what they believed to be important in their lives. Here is the outcome of the study.

As far as jobs are concerned they _____

When it comes to family life they believe that _____

Teenagers also said how important politics are to them. Here they think that _____

Last but not least here is how important social media are to teenagers. The Shell study says that _____

___/ 8

___ / 102 points = ___ % = _____ (final grade)

Punkteschlüssel (gemäß Verordnung der Fachoberschule in Hessen):

unter 20 Prozent = Note 6
20 bis 26,9 Prozent = Note 5-
27 bis 33,9 Prozent = Note 5
34 bis 40,9 Prozent = Note 5
41 bis 45,9 Prozent = Note 4-
46 bis 50,9 Prozent = Note 4
51 bis 55,9 Prozent = Note 4+
56 bis 60,9 Prozent = Note 3-
61 bis 65,9 Prozent = Note 3
66 bis 70,9 Prozent = Note 3+
71 bis 75,9 Prozent = Note 2-
76 bis 80,9 Prozent = Note 2
81 bis 85,9 Prozent = Note 2+
86 bis 90,9 Prozent = Note 1-
ab 91 Prozent = Note 1

Notenspiegel der Klasse:

Note 1	Note 2	Note 3	Note 4	Note 5	Note 6

Notendurchschnitt der Klassenarbeit: _____

My feedback on your test:

1. *This is what you have done pretty well:* _____

2. *These are your major weaknesses:* _____

3. *This is where you need to improve and what to do next:* _____

Luke Graham, 7 Years²¹

Once I was seven years old, my mama told me,
"Go make yourself some friends or you'll be lonely."
Once I was seven years old

It was a big big world, but we thought we were bigger
Pushing each other to the limits, we were learning quicker
By eleven smoking herb and drinking burning liquor
Never rich so we were out to make that steady figure

Once I was eleven years old, my daddy told me,
"Go get yourself a wife or you'll be lonely."
Once I was eleven years old

I always had that dream, like my daddy before me
So I started writing songs, I started writing stories
Something about that glory just always seemed to bore me
'Cause only those I really love will ever really know me

Once I was twenty years old, my story got told
Before the morning sun, when life was lonely
Once I was twenty years old

(Lukas Graham!)

I only see my goals, I don't believe in failure
'Cause I know the smallest voices, they can make it major
I got my boys with me, at least those in favor
And if we don't meet before I leave, I hope I'll see you later

Once I was twenty years old, my story got told
I was writing about everything I saw before me
Once I was twenty years old

Soon we'll be thirty years old, our songs have been sold
We've traveled around the world and we're still roaming
Soon we'll be thirty years old

I'm still learning about life
My woman brought children for me
So I can sing them all my songs
And I can tell them stories
Most of my boys are with me
Some are still out seeking glory
And some I had to leave behind
My brother, I'm still sorry

Soon I'll be sixty years old, my daddy got sixty-one
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21 <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/lukasgraham/7years.html>

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