

Welcome to the End

- Review your study materials before taking the Unit 2 test.
- Test has 60-minute time limit.

Dollar Days

- Pop/show-tune song, reminiscent of Anthony Newley.
- It sounds like a farewell song, the last words of the show (in this case, the "show" of life)
- Bowie is saying goodbye to England (in addition to other meanings in the song).
- Lyrics are reminiscent of beat poetry, cut-up technique, and Diamond Dogs

- Lyrical style is similar to emotional, stream-of-consciousness aesthetic found in Allen Ginsberg's "America" (1959).
- It's also got a pop vibe similar to "Ashes to Ashes".

I Can't Give Everything Away

- Two things stick out w/ this song:

① It sounds like Berlin Period recordings.

② It seems to be about some kind of funeral.

- Is Bowie saying that the positivity and optimism of Berlin Period has ended?

Magick

- In the 70's, Bowie was interested in Aleister Crowley's idea of spiritual ascension and his idea that each person has a divine archetype within them (similar to Superman)
- Polite society keeps us from reaching our potential.
- Crowley was reacting to strict rules of Victorian England.
- We see Bowie's fascination w/ Crowley in "Quicksand" (1971) and "Station to Station" (1976).
- Bowie stops talking about Crowley after he quits drugs in late 70's, but he writes about astral projection

(which was one of Crowley's central ideas) in "Lazarus".

- Is Bowie just reassessing or reflecting on his past?
- Or, does he actually believe in this occult idea?

Lazarus

- which came first — the song or the play, "Lazarus"?
- Is Lazarus supposed to be Newton from "The Man who Fell to Earth", or is it really about Bowie's spiritual death and rebirth?
- In music video, Bowie is

wearing an astral projection
suit that looks identical to
suit he wore in a photo
shoot in mid-70's .

Blackstar

- What does "blackstar"
refer to? A black hole?
A cancer lesion? A star
within us that hasn't shined
yet (Crowley)? A reference
to Elvis Presley's 1960
song "Black Star"?
- Aesthetically, the song is
similar to music by Steve Reich

(the composer who wrote
"Different Trains") and
George Crumb (see "Black Angels").

- The town where Hermione Farthingale lived while acting in "Song of Norway" is called Ormen.

Bowie's Legacy

- Tony Visconti believed that Blackstar would inspire imitations.
- Bowie's music influenced many artists, including:
 - punk/synth { • New Wave bands (Berlin Period)
 - fashion { • Britpop bands (Ziggy)
 - Janelle Monae (Ziggy/Philly Soul)

- androgyny {
 - Eurythmics (Ziggy)
 - Poison (Ziggy)
- persona {
 - Venom (Ziggy, etc)
- fantasy themes {
 - Public Enemy (Ziggy)
 - A Tribe Called Quest (Ziggy)
 - etc