

Sunday Bloody Sunday: a committed song

U2 : SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY

① Listen to the song twice and fill in the blanks:

I can't believe the news
I can't close my And make it go away
How long... How long must we sing this? How long, how long...
'cause tonight...we can be as one. Tonight...

Brokenunder children's feet
Bodies strewn across the dead end
But I won't heed the battle call
It puts my back up
Puts my back up against the
Sunday, Bloody Sunday
Sunday, Bloody Sunday



And the battle's just begun
There's many, but tell me who has won
The trench is dug within our hearts
And, children, brothers,torn apart

Sunday, Bloody Sunday Sunday, Bloody Sunday

How long... How long must we sing this? How long?...
'cause tonight...we can be as one. Tonight...tonight...

Sunday, Bloody Sunday Sunday, Bloody Sunday

Wipe the tears from your Wipe your away
(Sunday, Bloody Sunday)
Oh, wipe your bloodshot eyes
(Sunday, Bloody Sunday)

Sunday, Bloody Sunday Sunday, Bloody Sunday...

And it'swe are immune
When fact is and TV
And today the millions cry
We eat andwhile tomorrow they die
The real just begun
To claim the victorywon
On... Sunday, Bloody Sunday Sunday, Bloody Sunday...

The historical background of this song:

The title of the song refers to a particular day in Irish history: Sunday, January 30th 1972, when Irish Catholics decided to demonstrate in the streets of Derry in Northern Ireland. They wanted the same opportunities than the Protestant community. English troops tried to break up the demonstration, they opened fire on the unarmed and peaceful civilians and shot 13 of them. This event shocked many countries in the world.

The band

U2 rock band comes from Ireland. Their first album dates back to 1976 . Many of their songs combine an original sound with honest lyrics and a challenging social message.

② How the singer emphasizes that blood and violence are everywhere:

- a) The adjective used in the chorus:.....
- b) The number of times it is repeated in the song:.....
- c) Which words refer to war or violence ?.....
- d) Which question is repeated several times in the song?

The singer do this to show:

- ☞ They are tired of this war that has been going on for too long.
- ☞ No one seems to be listening to those who want the war to end.
- ☞ Both of the above answers.

③ Find the lines in the song which express the following ideas:

I refuse to respond to calls for violence

➤

In this war there's no winner.

➤

The enemies in this war are all Irish, they all belong to the same family.

➤

You've cried for a long time. Your eyes are red. It's time to stop.

➤

The official version of facts presented on TV is false; it does not reflect reality.

➤

We have become used to the idea of people sacrificing their lives. While we continue eating, they go on hunger strikes (= grève de la faim) and die.

➤

It will be very difficult to do, but we must follow in the footsteps of Jesus, refusing violence and going towards peace.

➤

The adjective "bloody" has three meanings:

1. Smearred or stained with blood; dripping with blood.
2. Cruel, merciless.
3. In British English it is a swearword (= juron, gros mot), used to emphasize en emotion such as anger.

In your opinion, which of the meanings of bloody is used in the expression Bloody Sunday?

Definition 1 Definition 2 Definition 3 all three definitions

④ Vocabulary: write the word from column A next to its translation in column B:

A	B
Words from the song	Meaning of the word used in the song
Bodies strewninjectés de sang
Heedséparés de force
Trenchestenir compte de, faire attention à
Immunetranchées
Torn apartlarmes
Wipecadavres éparpillés
Tearsrevendiquer
Bloodshotessuyer
Claimimmuniés