

Student Worksheet:
Exploring Migration and Identity Through “Ya Rayah”

“**Ya Rayah**” is an iconic Algerian song that explores themes of migration, identity, and longing. It has become an important cultural symbol in the Maghreb region, reflecting the experiences of people who leave their homeland and face the emotional challenges of exile and separation.

By listening to the song and analyzing its lyrics, you will explore how music can express cultural identity and shared human experiences. You will also compare “Ya Rayah” with cultural expressions from your own community.

Instructions

For this activity, you will work individually and then share your ideas with a partner.

You will:

1. Watch and listen to the song “Ya Rayah.”
2. Answer questions about its meaning, themes, and cultural significance.
3. Analyze the lyrics and identify key emotions and ideas.
4. Compare the song with a cultural expression from your own community.
5. Participate in a class discussion and complete a final reflection.

Activity 1: Watching the Video

Watch the video “Ya Rayah” by *Dahmane El Harrachi*. Then answer the following questions.

1. What is “Ya Rayah”?
2. Who is the original singer of the song?
3. What are the main themes in the song’s lyrics?
4. How does the song reflect the experience of migration?
5. What is the impact of the song on Maghreb culture?

Activity 2: Exploring the Lyrics and Themes

Listen to the song again and focus on the lyrics. Then answer the following questions.

1. What emotions and experiences are conveyed in the song?
2. How does the song reflect the cultural heritage of the Maghreb region?
3. Why do you think this song is still relevant today?

Lyrics

Ya rayah win msafar trouh taaya wa twali
Chhal nadmou laabad el ghaflin qablak ou qabli
Ya rayah win msafar trouh taaya wa twali
Chhal nadmou laabad el ghaflin qablak ou qabli
Chhal cheft al bouldan laamrine wa lber al khali
Chhal dhiyaat wqat chhal tzid mazal ou t'khali
Ya lghayeb fi bled ennas chhal taaya ma tadjri

Ya rayah win msafar trouh taaya wa twali
Chhal nadmou laabad el ghaflin qablak ou qabli
Aalach qalbek hzine waalach hakdha ki zawali
Matdoum achadda wila tzid taalem ou tabni
Maydoumou layyam walay doum seghrek ou seghri

Ya hlilou meskine li ghab saadou ki zahri
Ya rayah win msafar trouh taaya wa twali
Chhal nadmou laabad el ghaflin qablak ou qabli
Ya rayah win msafar trouh taaya wa twali
Chhal nadmou laabad el ghaflin qablak ou qabli

Hakdha rad el qalb bel djbine sabhane el aali
Ya rayah win msafar trouh taaya wa twali
Chhal nadmou laabad el ghaflin qablak ou qabli
Ya rayah win msafar trouh taaya wa twali
Chhal nadmou laabad el ghaflin qablak ou qabli
Ya rayah win msafar trouh taaya wa twali
Chhal nadmou laabad el ghaflin qablak ou qabli
Ya rayah win msafar trouh taaya wa twali
Chhal nadmou laabad el ghaflin qablak ou qabli

يا الراح
يا الزايح وين مسافر تروح تعيا وتولي
شحال ندموا العباد الغافلين قبلك وقبلي
يا الزايح وين مسافر تروح تعيا وتولي
شحال ندموا العباد الغافلين قبلك وقبلي
شحال شفقت البلدان العامرين والبر الخالي
شحال ضيعت اوقات وشحال تزيد ما زال تخلي
يا الغايب في بلاد الناس شحال تعيا ما تجري
بيك وعد القدرة ولي زمان وانت ما تدري
يا الزايح وين مسافر تروح تعيا وتولي
شحال ندموا العباد الغافلين قبلك وقبلي
يا الزايح وين مسافر تروح تعيا وتولي
شحال ندموا العباد الغافلين قبلك وقبلي
يا مسافر نعطيك وصايتي اذيها على بكري
شوف ما يصلح بيك قبل ما تبيع وما تشري
يا النايم جاني خبرك كيما صرالك يصري لي
هكذا راد وقدر في الجبين سبحان العالي

علاش قلبك حزين وعلاش هكذا كي الزاوالي
ما تدوم الشدة والى قريب تعلم وتدري
يا الغايب في بلاد الناس شحال تعيا ما تجري
يا حليلو مسكين اللي غاب سعدو كي زهري
يا الزايح وين مسافر تروح تعيا وتولي
شحال ندموا العباد الغافلين قبلك وقبلي

شحال ندموا العباد الغافلين قبلك وقبلي
يا الزايح وين مسافر تروح تعيا وتولي
شحال ندموا العباد الغافلين قبلك وقبلي
يا الزايح وين مسافر تروح تعيا وتولي
شحال ندموا العباد الغافلين قبلك وقبلي
يا الزايح وين مسافر تروح تعيا وتولي
شحال ندموا العباد الغافلين قبلك وقبلي

Activity 2B: Completing the Lyrics

Listen to the song again and complete the missing words in the lyrics below.

وين الريح يا _____

وتولي تعيا تروح _____

يدير واحد كل _____

في ويبقى _____

Activity 3: Cultural Comparison

Compare "Ya Rayah" with a song or cultural expression from your own community.

In the "Ya Rayah" column, write what the song expresses about each theme based on the lyrics, the video, and the class discussion.

In the "Your Culture" column, write what the song makes you think, feel, or reflect on from your own cultural background. You should explain how you understand these themes as someone from a different culture.

Comparison Chart

Theme	Ya Rayah	Your Culture
Migration		
Identity		
Emotions		

Class Discussion

Discuss your answers with a partner or as a class.

- What emotions and experiences are conveyed in the song?
- How does the song reflect migration and separation?
- Why is this song important in Maghreb culture?
- What similarities and differences exist with your own culture?
- How can music connect people and cultures?

Final Reflection

How does "*Ya Rayah*" help us understand themes such as migration, identity, and belonging?

Resource List:

1. **Dahmane El Harrachi - Ya Rayah (Algerian Song)**
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/dlDWbf-ZpSU>
2. **Dahmane El Harrachi - Ya Rayah (Algerian Song) (Arabic/English lyrics)**
https://www.youtube.com/embed/L75_TjfP-g8
3. **Exploring the Timeless Classic: Ya Rayah**
<https://ts4.mm.bing.net/th?id=OVP.M5idn8eSL2cYImjLnpAkyAEsDh&pid=15.1>
4. **Rachid Taha's Song "Ya Rayah": A Voice for Immigrants**
<https://ts4.mm.bing.net/th?id=OVP.jYmq13Aujo1P7f17VXWjAEkII&pid=15.1>
5. **Ya Rayah - Wikipedia**
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/dlDWbf-ZpSU?autoplay=1>
6. **The Story and Meaning of the Song "Ya Rayah"**
<https://www.tiktok.com/player/v1/7210821659585023237>