

Directions:

1. Demonstrate evidence of close reading.
2. Highlight your confusion.
3. Answer the two questions at the bottom of the page.
4. Write a one page reflection in your writer's notebook.

WORLD NEWS from Time for Kids

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President Wyclef Jean?

The Haitian-American musician hopes to lead Haiti towards a brighter future

By Jared T. Miller

In 2004, Wyclef Jean released *Welcome to Haiti: Creole 101*. The album included a song, "President," where Jean painted a picture of poverty and what he would do to fight it if he were elected president.

Those song lyrics might come in handy, as would lessons in Creole—a kind of French that people in Haiti speak. Yesterday, in an interview with TIME magazine, Jean announced that he was running for President of Haiti.

For many of his fans, his announcement wasn't a surprise. Jean has been active in raising money and providing aid for Haiti, especially after this year's devastating earthquake. "If not for the earthquake, I probably would have waited another 10 years before doing this," Jean says. "The quake drove home to me that Haiti can't wait another 10 years for us to bring it into the 21st century," he told TIME. The singer went on to discuss his ideas to help fix the Caribbean island-nation's many problems.

I just read a book about the violence in Haiti at the time the dictatorship was ending and democracy was beginning (A Taste of Salt)

I saw an interview with Sean Penn about this. He thinks Jean is not qualified. (Bill CNN)



GUSTAVO CABALLERO—GETTY IMAGES

Haitian Pride! Jean holds a Haitian flag at the 2010 Billboard Latin Music Awards.

Never heard it.

Is he qualified? Are the requirements different than in the U.S.?

Very poor country—quite sad.



THONY BELIZAIRE—
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Jean walks with children in 2008 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, wearing a Yéle Haiti shirt.

From "Fugee" to Fundraiser

Jean was 9 years old when he moved from Haiti to the United States where he was sometimes bullied for being Haitian. But he has stayed proud of his heritage and often included it in his art. As a founding member of The Fugees, a hip-hop group famous in the 1990s, and as a solo artist, he used both rhythms and lyrics that have their roots in Haitian culture and music.

He left? Shouldn't someone who has always lived there run the country?

January earthquake that killed 200,000 people and destroyed much of Port-au-Prince, the nation's capital. But he told *TIME* the experience of traveling to Haiti to help with relief efforts inspired him to do more than raise money.

"I knew I'd have to take the next step," Jean said, adding that if putting his music on hold was ever stopping him from running for president, "then everything I've been singing about, like equal rights, doesn't mean anything."

Does singing about it make him able to fix it?

If I Were President

Jean's campaign for the presidency of Haiti is expected to have a lot of popularity among Haiti's young population, who Jean says "doesn't believe in [its] politicians anymore." His hopeful attitude for the future contributes to his plan to modernize Haiti—something the country hasn't been able to do because of its history of poverty, violence, natural disasters and often dishonest leaders.

But not everyone is welcoming to Jean. The country's powerful wealthy class doesn't like the fact that he hasn't lived in Haiti since he was 9, although he only needs to have lived there for 5 years to run for president. And he was accused of taking money from Yéle Haiti for his own projects recently. Although he denied it, and said it was a mistake in keeping track of the donation money, it is an example of Jean's lack of leadership experience.

I agree!

This does not sound good.

Jean plans to officially announce his candidacy before the deadline on August 7. And he hopes to use his fame and his ideas to improve the country of his birth.

"I want to be part of a different kind of celebrity," Jean told *TIME*. "One that thinks not just about charity but policy."

What is the author's purpose?

to inform

Who is the intended audience?

Americans, Haitians

Reflection

I know very little about Haiti. My first real introduction was with the earthquake this year. Through the news coverage, I learned that Haiti is a very poor country with lots of problems.

Last week, right before Jean's announcement, I read a story called A Taste of Salt, the story of a boy who is hurt in the violence of 1990s Haiti. The tale taught me about the poverty, lack of education, corrupt leadership, and slavery that took place in the country prior to democracy.

It does not seem like much has changed, and it sounds like the country needs a really good leader. What, however, makes Jean qualified? He did not really grow up in the country, and he has not held any kind of political office. Even on the news, I have not heard him address his qualifications when he has been asked.

Based on what I know, it sounds like a new leader would be good for Haiti, but is a music star really the correct choice?