Common Themes

Thoughts on War – Hip Hop

"Jesus Walks" by Kanye West
We at war with terrorism, racism, and most of all we at war with ourselves
God show me the way because the Devil trying to break me down

Thoughts on War – Shakespeare

York in *Henry VI, Part 2* 5.2.29-30
Thus war hath given thee peace, for thou art still.
Peace with his soul, heaven, if it be thy will!

Dreams Deferred – Hip Hop

"It's Your World" by Common
I remember in high school she had a passion to sing
Now she see herself in a casket in dreams

Dreams Deferred – Shakespeare

Queen Gertrude in *Hamlet* 5.1.255-257
I hoped thou shouldst have been my Hamlet's wife;
I thought thy bride-bed to have deck'd, sweet maid,
And not have strew'd thy grave.

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Love in Vain – Hip Hop

"When It Hurts So Bad" by Lauryn Hill
I loved real, real hard once
But the love wasn't returned
Found out the man I'd die for
He wasn't even concerned

Love in Vain – Shakespeare

Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 2.1.248-251
We cannot fight for love, as men may do.
We should be wooed and were not made to woo.
I'll follow thee and make a heaven of hell
To die upon the hand I love so well.

Flyin' High – Hip Hop

"Touch the Sky" by Kanye West
I gotta testify, come up in the spot looking extra fly
For the day I die, I'mma touch the sky.

Flyin' High – Shakespeare

Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* 1.4.17-18
You are a lover; borrow Cupid's wings,
And soar with them above a common bound.

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Boasting – Hip Hop

"Black Sweat" by Prince
I don't want 2 take my clothes off,
But I do.
I don't want 2 turn nobody on,
Unless it's U.
I don't want 2 dance 2 hard, baby
But this is a groove (yes it is! Fonky)
I'm hot, and I don't care who knows it,
I got a job 2 do

Boasting – Shakespeare

Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing* 4.2.82-88
I am a wise fellow and, which is more, an officer and, which is more, a householder and, which is more, as pretty a piece of flesh as any is in Messina, and one that knows the law, go to, and a rich fellow enough, go to, and a fellow that hath had losses, and one that hath two gowns and everything handsome about him.

The Effect of Music – Hip Hop

"Lose Control" by Missy Elliott & Ciara
Music makes you lose control

The Effect of Music – Shakespeare

John of Gaunt in *Richard II* 5.5.62
This music mads me

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