

Milestone by Matt Walden & Joey Kidney

As I began this project, I was immediately drawn to picking a love song for Rafe and Grace. While we only see the beginning of their relationship, I'm almost certain that it continued after the book ended. While Grace wasn't ready for their relationship to become romantic yet, there was an obvious spark between the two of them. Rafe would have waited for Grace, not wanting to pressure her into anything. I imagine this song being the one that Rafe would listen to before they got together, throughout their relationship. It's such a beautiful song, one about strength and love in a relationship, traits I know would be present in their relationship.

I really think these lyrics connect to their relationship in the story. Rafe is a thoughtful person who in years to come will think back to the time they got together. He is also very cautious and cares for Grace, so he would be very nervous when he finally asks her out.

Lyrics

When I asked you to be my girl
I was nervous for your answer
And my heart started beating faster
Minutes turned to hours in my head
Six years have passed
I still think about that moment

Young Dumb & Broke by Khalid

This song is the epitome of teenagers. It's a great song to blast in the car and sing to, and that's what I imagine Joaquin, Maya, and Grace doing. This song accurately talks about what it's like to be a teenager, and it's very easy to relate to. I can just imagine the three siblings driving down the highway in Joaquin's car with the windows down and this song blasting. It's a song that would bond the three of them together.

I think these lyrics I pulled out from the song really represent the relationship Maya, Grace, and Joaquin have. Just like all other siblings, the three of them argue,

don't mad at one another, and fight. They are all very similar but different in other ways (showing nature vs nurture). They can all be stubborn and think that they are in the right while fighting with one another, and we see that during the novel, and what I imagine happens after it ends.

Lyrics

We have so much in common
We argue all the time
You always say I'm wrong
I'm pretty sure I'm right

Ode to a Conversation Stuck in Your Throat by Del Water Gap

This song, one of my favorites at the moment, is such a beautiful and well-done love song. When listening to it, I immediately thought of Joaquin and Birdie, a relationship (in my opinion) that deserved better. They were both so good for one another and Joaquin just overthought about it. This song is about jealousy and protectiveness - both of which I think are traits Joaquin has, even though we didn't see much of them in the book. I can imagine Joaquin listening to this while him and Birdie were together and the song making him happy and filled with the love he had for her. Once they broke up, he listened to it in a different way. He listened to it late at night when he was thinking about her and all the memories that have together.

These lyrics connect to Joaquin and Birdie's relationship because Joaquin was so obviously in love with Birdie, and when he saw Birdie kissing the guy at school, he got upset and tried to leave. He still thought about Birdie long after they broke up, proving he still cares for her. He doesn't want her to be with anyone else, but he also doesn't think he's good enough for her.

Lyrics

And it hits me
I don't want anybody else touching you
Like I do
Like I do

Like me

Is it ok?

That I don't want

Anybody else touching you like I do

Like I do

Like me

Outnumbered by Dermot Kennedy

This song, one of my favorite sad songs, is a perfect song that Grace would listen to on the hard days she has when thinking about Peach. She has a connection to Peach that she's so scared of losing, but she's glad Peach is with a family that will be able to take care of her better than she would have been able to. This doesn't change the fact that sometimes she regrets it, and throughout the book, Grace thinks about Peach and the life she wants her to have.

While this song is originally about romantic love, the lyrics have a huge similarity to the way Grace feels about Peach. "On the nights you feel outnumbered Baby, I'll be out there somewhere". This lyric specifically connects to Grace and Peach's relationship. While Peach won't be able to lean on Grace for advice and she won't be there for her when things get tough, but she'll be out there thinking of her and sending her strength. Another set of lyrics that stood out to me are these; "Became a coward when I needed to speak, I guess love took on a different kind of meaning for me, So when I go just know it kills me to leave". Throughout the novel, Grace seems to regret not speaking up for her and Peach when it came to the adoption. She swallowed her own feelings about the matter and did what was best for Peach, even though she sometimes feels remorse about it.

Lyrics

I see everything you can be

I see the beauty that you can't see

On the nights you feel outnumbered

Baby, I'll be out there somewhere

I wrote some words and then I stared at my feet
Became a coward when I needed to speak
I guess love took on a different kind of meaning for me
So when I go just know it kills me to leave

Truth Hurts by Lizzo

When I was listening to this song, I instantly thought of Grace. This is known as a great song to listen to to get in a good mood. It preaches being happy while being single and putting yourself first. As we know, after Grace accepted the fact that she is better off without Max, she seems to have more confidence and be happier. I can imagine Grace blasting this song in her room and screaming the lyrics. It is a pro-women anthem that Grace would totally get on board with. I think Max was the first boyfriend experience that a lot of high school girls go through. Kind of a jerk and just not a great boyfriend. Once Grace realized this, she was in such a better mindset.

The lyrics, "You tried to break my heart? Oh, that breaks my heart, That you thought you ever had it, no, you ain't from the start" I think really sum up a lot of feelings Grace was going through after her and Max's break up. She realizes that she never really liked Max, just the fact that he liked her was enough. Reenforcing "that you thought you ever had it, no you ain't from the start".

Lyrics

You tried to break my heart?
Oh, that breaks my heart
That you thought you ever had it
No, you ain't from the start

Home by Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros

Originally a love song, this is a song I associate with family, and obviously, where you feel at home. I link this song with the novel as a whole, but specifically the three siblings and their relationship. I think the definition of "home" and "family" depends on the person defining them. Home can be where you feel most comfortable, a place where you have positive memories, it could be a person, where you grew up, where you're currently living, etc. Family can be the people you are

biologically related to, the people who adopted you, your stepparent, your adopted siblings, your friends, etc. It's all relative, and you get to decide what it means for you. The characters' definition of family changes throughout the novel, and I think this song really encapsulates what it means to be home.

The lyrics "home is wherever I'm with you" really summarizes how I think the three siblings define home and family. Their relationship changed throughout the book, they got into fights, cried with each other, and made memories together. Their definition of home and family most likely changed as the novel progressed and they changed as people. They became a small family, and home became when they are with one another.

Lyrics

Ah, home, let me come home

Home is wherever I'm with you

Ah, home, let me come home

Home is wherever I'm with you

...

That's true, laugh until we think we'll die

Barefoot on a summer night

Never could be sweeter than with you

Dancing in My Room by 347aidan

This song is a song I associate with Maya and Claire's relationship. It highlights love, a fear of people leaving, fighting your demons, and happiness. Maya and Claire's relationship goes through quite a lot throughout the novel, and it's an interesting part of the story to watch unfold. Maya is very reliant on Claire but she also pushes her away when things get tough. I think this song explains a lot about how Maya feels into words. The lyrics, "And baby yeah you give me reasons, Just to fight all of my demons", connect with how Maya has internalized demons that she has to deal with throughout the book. Some of these include the thought of everyone leaving her, the issues with her mom, breaking up with Claire, her fighting with Lauren, etc.

Lyrics

And baby yeah you give me reasons
Just to fight all of my demons
Yeah I love you when you're speaking
'Cause you silence all my feelings
That feeling that I'm not okay
And everyone will run away