Warm Up

- Welcome to Hip Hop Lit 😎🎶🎤🌆%
- Opening Cypher
Community Building

- Walk With Me If
- Heart Beat Rhythm
- Columbian Hypnosis
Hip Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes

• How has Hip Hop culture served to re-imagine or solidify images of Black masculinity?

• Why is Rap a male-dominated industry?

• What happens when culture and commerce intersect?

• How did the commercialization of Hip Hop music and culture affect the Hip Hop community?
Beyond the Film

• "I would always defend hip hop. But the more I grew and the more I learned about sexism . . . the more those lyrics became unacceptable to me and I began to become more conflicted about the music that I loved." - Filmmaker Byron Hurt

• How are women shown in hip hop music videos?
• How are women described in hip hop lyrics?
• How are women shown in TV advertisements?
• What does the phrase, "sex sells" mean?
• Why is rap a male-dominated industry?
“Whatcha really wanna know is how I feel about brothas. It’s simple. I love black men like I love no other. And I’m not talking sex or aesthetics, I’m talking about loving y’all enough to be down for the drama — stomping anything that threatens your existence. Now only a fool loves that hard without asking the same in return. So yeah, I demand that black men fight sexism with the same passion they battle racism. I want you to annihilate anything that endangers sistas’ welfare — including violence against women — because my survival walks hand in hand with yours. So, my brotha, if loving y’all fiercely and wanting it back makes me a feminist then I’m a feminist. So be it.”

— Joan Morgan

(author of *When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost*)
Hip Hop Feminist? What's that?

“Are we no longer good feminists…if the A.M’s wee hours sometimes leave us tearful and frightened that achieving all our mothers wanted us to – great educations, careers, financial and emotional independence—has made us wholly undesirable to the men who are supposed to be our counterparts? … And when one accuses you of being completely indecipherable there’s really nothing to say ‘cuz even you’re not sure how you can be a feminist and insist he ‘respect you as a woman, treat you like a lady, and make you feel safe – like a li’l girl.’” p.58

“We are the daughters of feminist privilege. The gains of the Feminist Movement (the efforts of black, white, Latin, Asian and Native American women) had a tremendous impact on our lives – so much we often take it for granted. We walk through the world with a sense of entitlement that women of our mothers’ generation could not begin to fathom.” p.59

“More than any other generation before us, we need a feminism committed to ‘keeping it real.’ We need a voice like our music – one that samples and layers many voices, injects its sensibilities into the old and flips it into something new, provocative, and powerful.” p. 62
Keep her where she belongs...
It's nice to have a girl around the house.

Though she was a tiger lady, our hero didn't have to fire a shot to floor her. After one look at his Mr. Leggs slacks, she was ready to have him walk all over her. That noble styling sure soothes the savage heart! If you'd like your own dolly-to-doll carpeting, hunt up a pair of these he-man Mr. Leggs slacks. Such as our new automatic wash-wear blend of 65% "Dacron" and 35% rayon—incomparably wrinkle-resistant. About $12.95 at plush-carpeted stores.
Lit Hop

• "Baby Phat," by De La Soul
• “Bitch Bad,” by Lupe Fiasco
• “U.N.I.T.Y.” by Queen Latifah
Writing Exercise

• Keeping in mind our discussions from today, write a rap, poem or freewrite after brainstorming using the following prompts:

  • List 3 words that come to mind when you hear the word “woman”
  • List 3 words that come to mind when you hear the word “man”
  • List 3 things you’ve seen advertised on television recently
  • 1 example of a fashion trend or style of clothing associated with your gender
  • 3 quotes from today’s hip hop texts that speak to you
  • 1 thing that doesn’t make any sense about your gender / the opposite gender
  • 1 thing people from the opposite gender are better at doing
  • 1 thing people from the opposite gender are worse at doing
  • The 3 most beautiful things about your gender