



White Pine Activity #3:  
*Then Everything Happens at Once*  
M-E Girard



# Text to Text/World Connections with Music

M-E Girard uses music to represent many of the characters in this novel. Freddie listens to his rock, Alex to Pat Benetar, Miss Beckie to the teddy bear picnic song and Baylee to Dirty Dancing. Each character uses music to process/reflect their emotional state.


1. What music reflects your state of being?
2. What connections can we make between current music and the following themes from the novel: body image, self love, love triangles, friendship, lockdown, teen/parent relationships?

For example, Baylee states that she wishes she could see herself as other people see her. She states:

“Most of what I write is about wishing I could somehow experience looking at myself through Alex’s eyes, through Freddie’s eyes, through Garrett’s eyes, even just for a minute. Just enough for it to click inside. It’s like if I could see myself from other perspectives—all three of them mashed together—then maybe I’d feel steadier in my own shoes.”

Let’s compare this quotation to the chorus from the song “A Little Bit Happy” by Canadian artist TALK:

If I could see how you see me  
I could be a little bit happy  
And through your eyes I realize  
I could be a little bit happy

 TALK - A Little Bit Happy (Lyric Video)

3. What connections can you make between these two texts?
4. Create a playlist of songs that reflect the major themes of this novel?  
Here are some themes to get you started: self love, body image, body dysmorphia, love, loyalty, friendship