





# CLOCKS

Coldplay

Mrs. C's Song Analysis



## Point of View

Feels like the singer himself is talking to the audience.

It's really just about him. It feels like he's discouraged and disoriented. Maybe frustrated. Confused.

It also feels like he's longing for someone/someplace he misses.

I'm just going to call the speaker "he" today.

# Title: “Clocks”



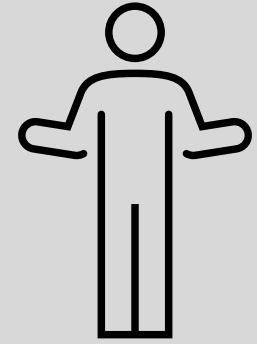
- This is the “heavy” line that has the title in it:  
Confusion that never stops  
Closing walls and ticking clocks
- I’m guessing maybe the singer is disoriented from traveling and doing so many shows all over the world, different time zones. Living that lifestyle would be crazy.
- Also this line makes me think of travel and jet lag:  
The lights go out and I can't be saved  
Tides that I tried to swim against
- Fame might be its own trapping as well. And when the lights go out in the audience, they come on for the band.

# Subjects



- There are some weird images/settings;  
no real plot or time:
  - someplace where the lights go out
  - tides/swimming
  - prayer
  - shoot an apple off my head
  - tiger waiting to be tamed
  - confusing, closing walls, ticking clocks
  - home
  - someone else who is missed or missing him
  - cure/disease
  - nothing else compares (to what?)
  - home, where I wanted **ed** to go (past tense?)

# Conflict

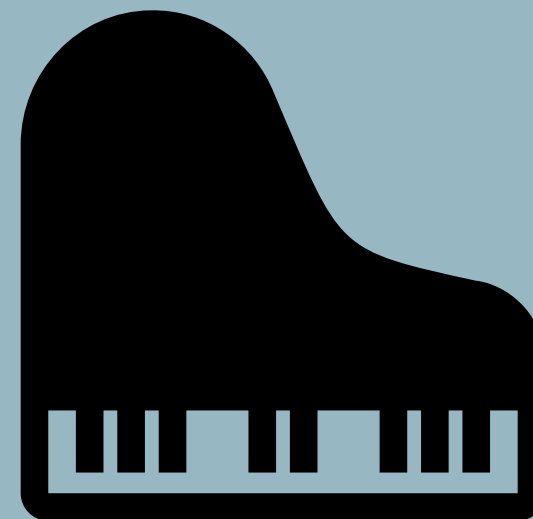


- Conflict: mostly man vs. self

- It seems sometimes he is somewhere he doesn't always like but is conflicted because he does want to be there and maybe there is pressure to be somewhere else
- He feels like he tries to pray but it is not working for him. He keeps finding himself singing again.
- Maybe saying fame is a double-edged sword of loving when the lights go out and he goes on stage—that addiction of the limelight which he fights in himself
- Troubled by some kind of feelings, unnamed.
- Confused where he is, *WHEN* he is; disoriented
- Wants to go back and be with family/girlfriend/wife but can't seem to quit singing which maybe causes the other person hurt (so is he the cure, or the disease?)
- Nothing else compares to either singing and fame or to home and relationships

- The song makes me feel jazzed up and excited but also kind of chaotic and confused. Maybe that is how the singer feels traveling and with a fame based musical career?
- The piano is such a strong element throughout. That riff they play over and over is so good and addictive. Maybe like the limelight is for the singer?
- When all the other instruments join in: drums, voice, electric guitar, it's very energetic.
- Sometimes when it is just the voice, I feel more of the longing in the song, especially because "you are" is repeated and "home" at the end.

## Mood & Musicality



# Language

- Symbols: the whole thing is packed with them because it doesn't make linear sense.
  - the tiger waiting to be tamed
  - closing walls
  - water/sea/tide
  - the apple

Alliteration: ticking clocks (/k/ sound)

Metaphor: cure/disease, my seas

Rhyme: unsaid/head, stops/clocks, seas/opportunities/disease

Repetition: you are, nothing else compares, home home where I wanted to go







## Themes

Religion & Forgiving self

Figuring out life,  
choices, paths

Loss

Love

Home

# Why I Chose this Song?



It's got a fabulous musicality to it. I love the beat, the repetition, the vocals don't compete with the music.



I love instrumental only versions of this song very much.



It speaks of struggle in the music and lyrics and trying and trying and repeating.



The rhythm is a little off sometimes, which I think makes it more unpredictable and gives it a sense of anticipation.



Coldplay is awesome.