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What does the Music You Listen Say about You?

“If you judge a book by its cover, you might miss out on an amazing story. That quote is the story of my life, it seems that way because; I’ve been listening to old school r&b since I was born, I didn’t start listening to hip hop until I was eight years old; and I didn’t know what pop music was until I was around 17 years old. All the different types of music I listen to are a result of where I grew up and it describes the many different moods I express, parts I come from and, the cultures I was exposed to.

When I was younger it was just me and my mom and while she would cook dinner for us she would have the radio on and it would play artist such as Luther Vandross, Gerald Levert, Mary J. Blige and many others. That was the only type of music I knew about I would sing my heart out like I really knew what they were talking about. When I wouldn’t know the slightest thing about heartbreak for another 16 years. When I finally did receive my first heartbreak I played that music and those songs got me through it better than some of today's music would have. The old r&b shows me that I can listen to today’s r&b and sing and dance to it but when I am really hurting and need to listen to more than just Chris Brown, and Beyoncé I must go back to my roots.

When I was younger my family was very close, my brother and cousins would come over for Thanksgiving and Christmas and all the other big holidays and they would play their music. I would listen to it and then they would leave, and I would not see them again until the next holiday or birthday party. They would expose me to the music but then they would leave so it was not long enough for it to stick in my head and for me to remember it. I did not start really learning and listening to hip hop until my mom adopted my cousin and they moved in with us. That was when I started listening to the different songs then I started to learn the different dances and slang. I listen to hip hop now but it’s not my favorite type of music, but it connects me with my cousins and I’m very family orientated.

When I was about 16 years old my mom had me transferred to the local public school. That was a big culture shock I went from going to a predominantly black school to becoming the minority in at a country school with a farm. The one thing I know is that I do not like country music so when the first homecoming came along I didn’t want to go but someone asked me, and I reluctantly said yes. I went they played some songs that I knew and some that I had never heard of but that I liked that was when I was introduced to pop music. I listen to pop music more than anything because it reminds me of my friends.

In conclusion the music I listen describes me in a way that shows where I am from and the type of person I am. The music I listen too is based off experiences and memories from singing in the kitchen with my mom, dancing with my cousins, to just chilling and having fun with my friends. They all gave me what I needed at the different times in my life and I’m very much appreciative of that.