

# Michael Jackson's *Thriller*

## Extended Listening and Prediction

**Objective:** Practicing making predictions

**Level:** Intermediate

**Length:** 60 minutes

**Main aim:** Students will practice making oral predictions about Michael Jackson's *Thriller*

**Sub aim:** Students will practice listening skills with the *Thriller* short film/music video

**Assumptions:** have already been introduced to language of making predictions, do not know the entirety of the *Thriller* music video

**Materials:** [Thriller music video](#), *Thriller* lyric sheet, projector, computer

**Classroom type:** In-person normal, in-person socially distanced, online

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### **Warmer: Discuss Horror** (5 min)

**Ask:** Do you like horror movies? How do horror/thriller movies make you feel? Why? Do you have any favorites? What's the scariest one you've ever seen?

If pairwork is permitted, have students speak in pairs to each other before sharing with the rest of class. Pairchecks will add ~10 min to this lesson plan.

### **Thriller Instructions** (1 min)

Tell students they are about to watch the short horror film and music video for Michael Jackson's *Thriller*. Tell students that is long—13 minutes—but that's not a problem. You will pause the video at certain points and play the song part twice. The first section they will watch is a dialog between Michael and a girl.

**Note:** Skip the disclaimer at the beginning of the video and start from the [title screen](#) (all links in this lesson automatically do that for you).

### **Section 1 Listening: Opening** (5 min total: 2 min video, 3 min feedback)

(*Thriller* 0:10-2:11)

#### **Listening questions:**

- What is the relationship between Michael and the girl?
- Why do they get out of the car?
- What does Michael give to the girl?
- What does he say about himself at the very end?

Stop the video at exactly 2:11 (the shot of the moon with spooky music).

Review oral answers to listening questions.

**Ask:** What do think will happen next? Why?

**Section 2 Listening: Werewolf Michael** (4 min total: 1:30 min. video, 2:30 min fb)  
(*Thriller* 2:11-3:40)

Continue playing *Thriller*.

Stop video at exactly at 3:40 (as Werewolf Michael leans over the girl)

**Ask:** Was your previous prediction correct? What do you think will happen next and why?

**Section 3 Listening: Movie Theater** (5 min total: 1 min video, 2 min fb, 2 min instr.)  
(*Thriller* 3:40-4:34)

Continue playing *Thriller*.

Stop video at exactly 4:34 (After most of the conversation between Michael and the girl but before she walks off)

**Ask:** Was your prediction correct? What do you think will happen next and why?

Because the music started in this scene, someone will likely guess that the song is about to start. If not, draw students' attention to it yourself.

Introduce *Thriller* lyric activity sheet. The song is broken up into different sections.

Tell students to skim just the first box (top left) now and complete the lyrics during the video.

**Note:** *Thriller* has a wide range of very advanced vocabulary. If you have a longer class, feel free to use the song to introduce new vocabulary. Otherwise, for this 60 minute lesson, you will focus only on a few words and students will have the glossary for the rest. Vocabulary is not the main aim. Furthermore, this lyric sheet is for the music video version, only. The album version of *Thriller* is different.

**Section 4 Listening: The Song 1** (4 min total: 2 min video, 2 min feedback)  
(*Thriller* 4:34-6:27)

Continue playing *Thriller*.

Stop video at exactly 6:27 (Michael and the girl arrive at the graveyard)

Review answers to the lyric sheet.

**Vocabulary focus:** cuddle, creature, terror (another form of this word ('terrorize') appears as a blank in the next lyric section), any other words in blanks

**Replay The Song 1** (3 min total: 2 min video, 1 min fb)  
(*Thriller* 4:39-6:27)

Tell students you will replay that part of the song now. Listen again. After the singing ends, they need to watch the video and make another prediction about what will happen next.

**Ask:** What do you think will happen next? Why?

**Section 5 Listening: The Song 2** (3 min total: 0:45 min video, 2 min feedback)  
(*Thriller* 6:27- 7:02)

Tell students to listen and complete the second box of their lyric sheets.

Stop video at exactly 7:02.

Review predictions and answers to lyric sheet

**Vocabulary focus:** terrorize, words in blanks

**Section 6 Listening: The Song 3** (6 min total: 1:30 min video, 4 min ffb)  
(*Thriller* 6:27-8:02)

Tell students you will replay that part of the song now. Listen again and this time you are going to continue playing the video and they should complete the third box of the lyric sheet.

Stop at exactly 8:02 (end of the song)

Review answers to lyric sheet.

**Vocabulary focus:** tomb

**Replay Section 6: The Song 3** (4 min total: 1 min video, 3 min fb)  
(*Thriller* 7:30-8:23)

Tell students you will replay the section of the song again. Listen and follow along.

Play video from 7:30.

Stop at exactly 8:23 (right before Zombie Michael is revealed)

**Ask:** What do you think will happen next? Why?

**Section 7: Zombie Dance** (3 min total: 1 min video, 2 min fb)  
(*Thriller* 8:23-9:40)

Play video from 8:23.

Stop at exactly 9:40 (right before Michael starts singing again)

**Ask:** Were your predictions right?

Tell students to go to the fourth box of their lyric sheet and prepare for a new part of the song.

**Section 8: The Song 4** (4 min total: 1 min video, 3 min fb)

(*Thriller* 9:40-10:34)

Play video from 9:40.

Students complete lyric sheet.

Stop at exactly 10:34 (right as the song ends).

Review lyric sheet answers.

**Vocabulary focus:** tight

**Replay The Song 4** (3 min total: 1 min video, 2 min fb)

(*Thriller* 9:40-10:40)

Play video from 9:30.

Students can listen and read correct lyric sheets.

Stop video at exactly 10:40 (Michael's zombie face)

**Ask:** What do you think will happen next? Why?

**Section 9: Haunted House** (3 min total: 1 min video, 2 min feedback)

(*Thriller* 10:40-11:43)

Play video from 10:40

Stop at 11:43

Review previous predictions.

**Ask:** What do you think will happen next? Why?

**Section 10: The End** (3 min total: 1 min video, 5 min feedback)

(*Thriller* 11:43-credits)

Play video from 11:43 to the credits.

Review predictions for Section 10.

Then, group discussion about predictions (if pairwork permitted, pair discuss first):

Were your predictions mostly right or mostly wrong? What surprised you the most in the video? What do you think happens after the video ends?

**Extension:**

Students write their own endings for the video in the future tense. Encourage students to use new vocabulary words from the song lyrics in their stories to make them even creepier.