

Luka – Suzanne Vega

Exercise 1 - Complete the missing words in this text about the song.

This was one ___ the earliest songs in the 80s about the topic of child abuse ___ domestic violence. The melody ___ deceptively happy, so you think you're listening to something beautiful and peaceful but ___ fact the songwriter is telling you something devastating. In a similar way, many abuse victims also try ___ hide or deny their abuse. The song appears ___ Suzanne Vega's 1987 album "Solitude Standing."

- adapted from Wikipedia

Exercise 2 - Listen to lines 1-9 and choose the best summary.

- The song is written from the point of view of an abused child.
- The song is about a woman who is a victim of domestic violence.
- A child is describing his/her house.
- A neighbour is complaining about noisy neighbours.

- How do you think the story continues?

- Will there be a happy ending? Why?/Why not? Tell your partner.

Exercise 3 - Listen to and read lines 10-27 and find a word for these definitions:

- (adj.) someone who bumps into things or breaks things easily.
- (adj.) pleased with yourself or very confident.
- (verb) to disagree and fight with someone about something.
- (phrase) This doesn't concern you.
- (verb) to suppose

- In line 14, who does "They" refer to?

- In lines 15-16, who does "you" refer to?

1 My name is Luka
 2 I live on the second floor
 3 I live upstairs from you
 4 Yes, I think you've seen me before.
 5 If you hear something late at night,
 6 Some kind of trouble some kind of fight
 7 Just don't ask me what it was,
 8 Just don't ask me what it was,
 9 Just don't ask me what it was.
 10 I think it's 'cos I'm clumsy
 11 I try not to talk too loud,
 12 Maybe it's because I'm crazy
 13 I try not to act too proud,
 14 They only hit until you cry,
 15 After that you don't ask why
 16 You just don't argue anymore,
 17 Just don't argue anymore,
 18 Just don't argue anymore.
 19 Yes, I think I'm okay
 20 Walked into the door again,
 21 If you ask, that's what I'll say

22 And it's not your business anyway
 23 I guess I'd like to be alone
 24 With nothing broken, nothing thrown
 25 Just don't ask me how I am,
 26 Just don't ask me how I am,
 27 Just don't ask me how I am.
 28 My name is Luka
 29 I live on the second floor
 30 I live upstairs from you
 31 Yes, I think you've seen me before.
 32 If you hear something late at night
 33 Some kind of trouble some kind of fight
 34 Just don't ask me what it was,
 35 Just don't ask me what it was,
 36 Just don't ask me what it was
 37 They only hit until you cry
 38 After that you don't ask why
 39 You just don't argue anymore,
 40 Just don't argue any more
 41 Just don't argue any more

Exercise 4 - Listen to the last part of the song. Discuss these questions.

- Do you think the songwriter intentionally repeated the first part of the song?
- What effect does this have on someone who's listening to the song?
- What's your opinion of the song?