

Life Lessons from the TV Screen

TASNIM ODRIKA

Schools don't teach us even a quarter of the stuff we learn from TV shows.

You know how you've always been told by your parents, "You'll understand when you're older", but now you're trying to figure out whether your hard earned degree would serve better as a tray or a coaster. You know what you should have done with all that time? You should have spent it watching TV shows.

Here I have prepared a list of the top lessons television teaches us.

MAKING FRIENDS

The best choice for an acquaintance is without a doubt someone from a different culture. If you are a white person then you would be best suited with a nerdy Asian sidekick. Yes, sidekick, because an Asian being the lead character? That's just preposterous.

FINDING LOVE

All you have to do is make sure you are at the lowest point in your life. This is when you will be graced with this perfect, almost angelic, human being who will sweep you off your feet and "change the way you look at the world". Do you have a best friend of the different gender? If you do, then why are you wasting your time looking elsewhere? That's your soul

mate right there. Don't wait for your wife to die of a terminal disease to make you realise that Robin was THE ONE all along.

MAKEOVERS

All those top beauty salon ads lied to you. Makeovers do not cost that much. All you have to do is exchange your glasses for contacts and untie your hair in slow motion. Bonus points for a windy day.

FIGHTING

Are you an average person who's never had any previous training in combat? Congratulations. That alone qualifies you to win against any hardened criminal you ever face. Never used a gun in your life before? Do not worry, guns are easy. All you have to do is pick them up and shoot at the felon. Don't burden yourself worrying about aiming. Even if you aim in the opposite direction, the bullet will find its way to the culprit. It's simple physics.

FIDDLING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Real life may give you a wrong notion regarding the necessity of learning to drive. Even flying an airplane is fairly easy. Any noob can do it. Just press random buttons and voila. The previous technique can also be applied in figuring out high tech gadgets. If you're having



trouble deciphering the codes of password protected gadgets, just wait until your pursuers close in, and the object will automatically open itself.

Now that the importance of TV is clear to you, put down your chemistry book

and go watch the *Pretty Little Liars* finale. That's the real stuff.

Tasnim Odrika is having an existential crisis at the moment and doesn't really know who she is anymore. Send her compliments at odrika_02@yahoo.com.

FIGHTING INNER DEMONS WITH MUSIC

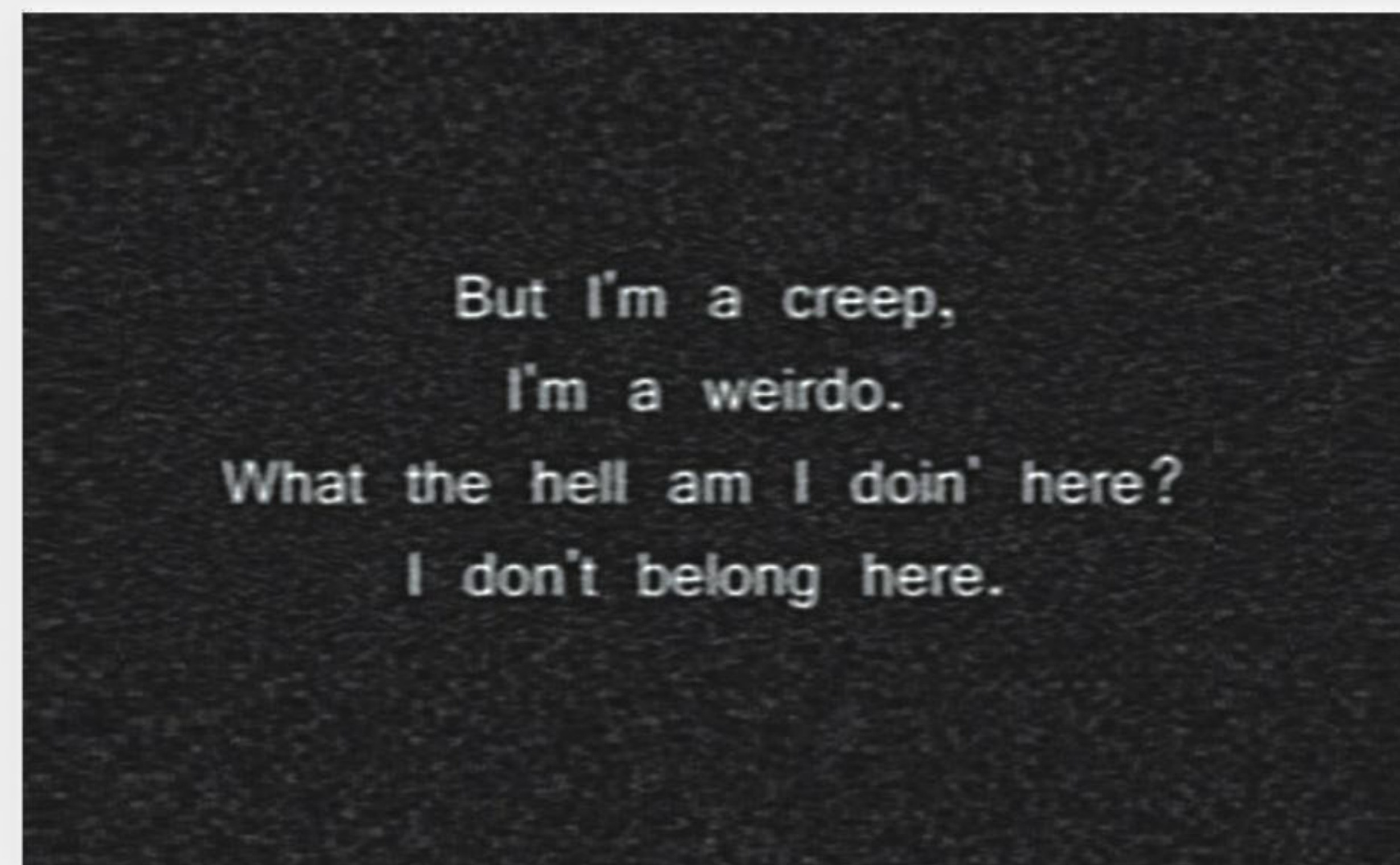
SHWETA MAJUMDER

Insecurities are clingy friends to our minds: we do not like them but we do not even know why we have them in the first place. Temporary or not, this engulfing feeling of worthlessness, often manifested as menacing voices inside our head, can be so overwhelming as to decrease our daily productivity.

Thus, it is during these moments when you are in dire need of help. The list provides you with music for such situations.

1. Not Today - Twenty One Pilots

This happy-sounding song is a perfect song to listen to when you feel trapped and might be your cup of tea if you want to keep those troubled lyrics but do not want to listen to more sombre songs.



2. Creep - Radiohead

This song gears more towards the form of self-doubt you have when you feel like the person you want to be with is far better than you might ever be. Listen to this on a rainy day, thinking about your seemingly perfect crush to drown your sorrows.

3. Afraid - The Neighbourhood

This song is apt for the times when you have the irrational feeling that everyone around you hates you. It not only

addresses those emotions but also talks about fighting them. Who knows, it might give you the courage to try to battle those unsound senses of insecurity.

4. What If I Told You - Jason Walker

There are times when we want someone, anyone, to talk to about what we are feeling but, even when the person is sitting right next to us, we question whether it would be worth it. Looking at that friend of ours, we engulf any word that comes to our throat in the fear that we would lose that person. This piece

deftly delineates those very emotions in the span of around four minutes.

5. Mrs Potato Head - Melanie Martinez

In this progressively judgemental world, we are often left feeling anxious about our own appearances, what with all the fairness-enhancing and blemish-removing brands making us feel guilty about the very face we call our own. This song mocks that very idea of making others feel insecure about their skin and, be it indirectly, tells people to love themselves for who they are.

6. Firework - Katy Perry

A song of empowerment for those who are about to give up to their demons, this song must be the best way to end the list. It talks about those dark times when you feel as vulnerable as a plastic bag is in the wind and, later on, gives you the hope that you need to persevere, and to not give in to the irrationality of your brain.

Music is therapeutic and I hope these songs help you deal with the dissonance that your pessimistic side brings to your life.

Shweta Majumder is your fairly typical nerdette, with zeal for physics as huge as her glasses. In her free times, she loves to paint and listen to Twenty One Pilots. You can contact her at staceygreene.1507@gmail.com