

# PATTI CAKES

- ELEVARK



Foto: Angel Films

**Fag:** Engelsk

**Niveau:** 7.-10. klasse +gymnasiet

**Purpose:**

- To practise how to make an argument in English.
- To practise analyzing a picture.
- Analyzing rap lyrics

## The American Dream

Read the following passage which presents 'the American Dream':

*"That dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position."*

Discuss the following questions with the person sitting next to you:

- Is Patti a person who is dreaming 'The American Dream'? Why/Why not?
- What is the film's message about 'The American Dream'? Does Patti have an opportunity to do what she is capable of? Or does she live in a society which is unfair and neglects her achievements?
- Prepare two short arguments. One will argue that "Patti Cake\$" tells you that the American society gives Patti the opportunity to use her talent. The other will argue that the American society does not give Patti the opportunity to use her talent. Present both arguments to the class.

## Analyzing a picture



- Describe what you see in the picture. Use words as 'foreground' and 'background'. Remember to describe the colours and their effect. Try to explain the thoughts and emotions expressed in the picture.
- Write a short essay which interprets the picture as an expression of The American Dream.

## Rap lyric

Read the following excerpt of one of Patti's rap lyrics:

From "Thick N' Thin"

Over that rainbow

We pay tolls

Where roads all are paved gold

And angels in gold chains

And night time is day glo'

I'm Jane Doe, a loser

This shit's so confusing

I just want to move

Where my life's like a movie

Should be getting busy

But I'm feeling Gary Busey

Drop that hot shit

Like a deuce in your jacuzzi

FFM

- A lot of rap texts use intertextual references. Explain where the following references come from and what they mean:
  - Over that rainbow
  - Roads paved with gold
  - Angels in gold chains
  - Jane Doe
  - Gary Busey
  
- All good rappers must be able to rhyme. Highlight the words that rhyme in the text.
- Most rappers make word plays. Explain how many meanings the title "Thick N' Thin" has.
- Most rappers rap about their lives, their hopes and dreams. How does Patti depict her life in the text above?
- How does Patti's rap relate to The American Dream?

