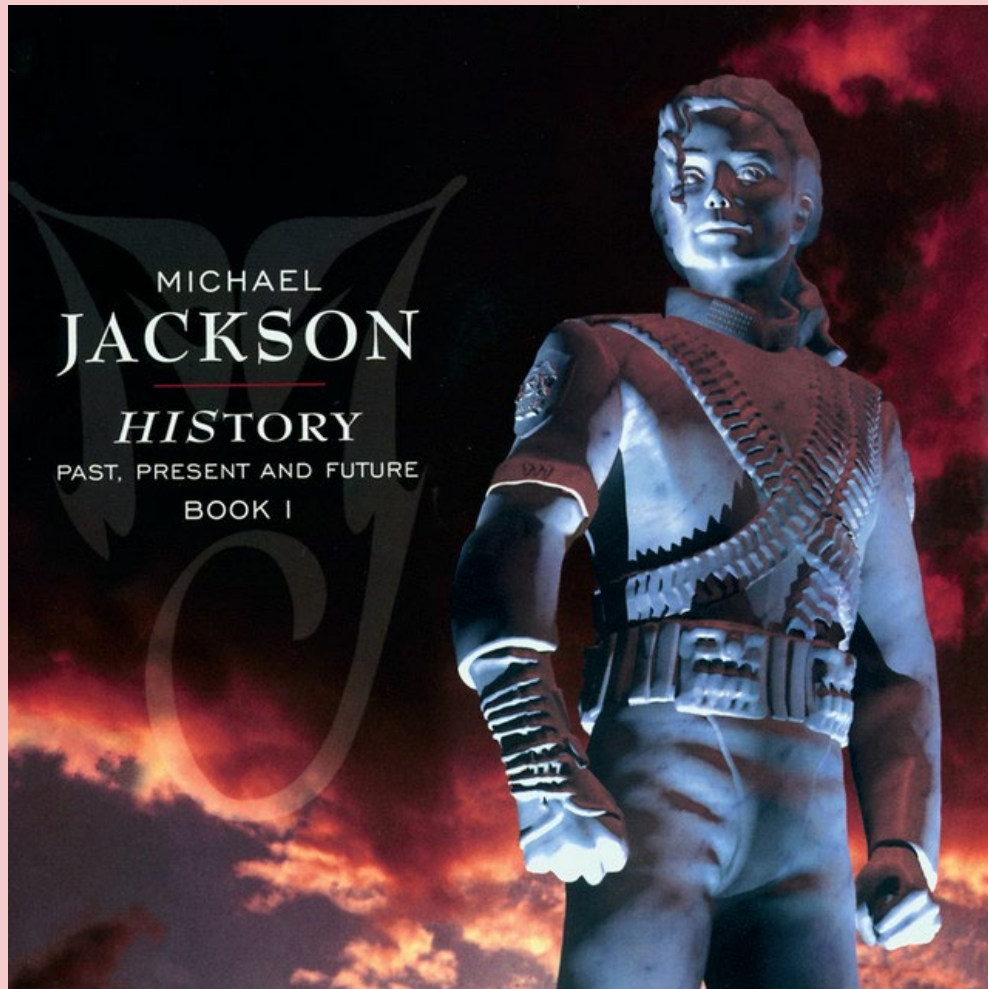


Tab 2

## *HIStory: Past, Present, Future, Book I*



*Of course, to no one's surprise, I picked a Michael Jackson album! What a shocker. The reason I picked this album instead of Thriller, (if you were wondering) is because this album covers his classic hits from Off The Wall, Thriller, BAD, Dangerous, and of course some newer songs from this album. Besides Thriller, this is one of his most important albums he's ever made, as the songs talk about racism, the tabloids, and includes a song with his sister Janet Jackson.. and this being released a few years after all of the drama about his life surfaced. I definitely didn't choose this album just so I can geek out about him.. Definitely not haha..*

## --The Man Himself--

“Who is Michael Jackson..?” said no one EVER!

Michael Joseph Jackson was born on August 29, 1958 in Gary, Indiana to his mother, Katherine Jackson and his father, Joseph Jackson. He’s an American singer, dancer, songwriter, actor, humanitarian, and philanthropist. In his early years, he was a part of



the Jackson 5 along with his brothers: Jermaine, Marlon, Tito, Jackie, and Randy who joined later when they became the Jacksons. He has been an entertainer since the age of 5 and in the spotlight since the age of 11. He started with the Jackson 5 singing in malls, talent shows, and the sort. They ~~then~~ later got discovered by “The Vancouvers” Bobby Taylor and got signed by Motown and recorded hits like ‘*I Want You Back*’, ‘*The Love You Save*’, ‘*ABC*’, ‘*I’ll Be There*’. just to name a few. Then later moved to Epic Records when they matured and

made more hits like ‘*Shake Your Body*’, ‘*Can You Feel It*’, and more. Michael began going solo at the age of 13 when he was also a part of the Jackson 5, he made albums like ‘*Ben*’ (1972), and ‘*Got To Be There*’ (1972), and more. Later on, during the group now being called The Jacksons, he released two classic albums: ‘*The Wall*’ (1979), and the most iconic album of all time ‘*Thriller*’ (1982). Later on in the 80’s and 90’s, he released ‘*BAD*’ (1987), ‘*Dangerous*’ (1991), and now ‘*HIStory: Past, Present, Future, Book I*’.

Michael Jackson is the “King of Pop” for so many reasons. He changed the face of modern dance, he influenced so many generations and artists with his groundbreaking music videos, he broke through and shattered racial boundaries, and became a global icon with his impact on the world (that’s just scratching the surface). To me, he is the best entertainer of ALL time. I could go ON and ON about him but that’ll be a whole essay haha.

## *--The Album--*

### *DISC 1:*

- *Billie Jean*
- *The Way You Make Me Feel*
- *Black Or White*
- *Rock With You*
- *She's Out Of My Life*
- *Bad*
- *I Just Can't Stop Loving You*
- *Man In The Mirror*
- *Thriller*
- *Beat It*
- *The Girl Is Mine*
- *Remember The Time*
- *Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough*
- *Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'*
- *Heal The World*



### *DISC 2:*

- *Scream*
- *They Don't Care About Us*
- *Stranger In Moscow*
- *This Time Around*
- *Earth Song*
- *D.S.*
- *Money*
- *Come Together*
- *You Are Not Alone*
- *Childhood*
- *Tabloid Junkie*
- *2 Bad*
- *HISTory*
- *Little Susie*
- *Smile*



## *--The Album and ThBackground*

*Michael Jackson's 9th studio album, HIStory; Past, Present, Future, Book I, was released on June 20, 1995 and is a double album, meaning that it has two discs. It was released through Epic Records, MJJ Productions (Michael Jackson's own company), and Sony. Like I said before, this album features many of his classic hits like Thriller, Beat It, and some hits like Scream,*

*Earth Song, and You Are Not Alone. This album has sold 25 million copies worldwide and been certified 8x platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America.*

*This album received 6 Grammy nominations and won one with Scream winning the Best Music Video award along with 3 MTV VMA awards.*

*Prior to the publication of HIStory, Michael had spent years fighting against tabloids and other media outlets that circulated false information and made fun of the artist in many ways, whether it was by making fun of his appearance, personality, or actions was particularly evident when Michael was accused of being racist and attempting to "become white" because of his pallor during the promotion of his eighth studio album, Dangerous. But this was simply the result of his skin losing its pigmentation due to Vitiligo, a skin ailment that Michael had battled for some time and was unable to manage. Michael's reputation and career were further damaged in 1993 after Evan Chandler accused him of sexually abusing children.*

*MICHAEL MJ WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY ON ALL CHARGES IN 2005!) As a result of emotional exhaustion and other factors, Michael's physical and mental health deteriorated over time, ultimately leading to his addiction to painkillers, leading back to the Pepsi commercial incident in 1984 where he received 2nd degree burns on his scalp. It forced him to seek rehabilitation and, more significantly, to cancel the Dangerous World Tour. Jackson had already composed a number of songs that expressed his*



*loneliness and dissatisfaction. Throughout January 1994 and March 1995, he started working on this album (HIStory), which was primarily recorded at the Hit Factory in New York City. Michael would bring in more producers for its composition, including Terry Lewis and Jimmy Jam, who had previously worked with Michael's sister Janet. "You Are Not Alone" was written and produced by R. Kelly.*

*Furthermore, a few features were incorporated into the project. Michael's brother and Janet previously collaborated on the song "Scream". Additionally, Slash of Guns N' Roses returned, having played guitar on "D.S." A few tracks also featured rap verses by Sade, Quille O'Neal and the Notorious B.I.G.. In my opinion, this album is his most personal album and a great album for people who are getting introduced to his music. He's truly a perfectionist. Now, let's dive*

## *--Disc 1 Songs*

*I wish I could write about all of the songs, but I think that would make this too long haha.*

- 1) *Billie Jean*



*Billie Jean* is a timeless classic and the most popular Michael Jackson song ever. This track is from the *Thriller* album released in 1982, the best-selling album of all time. This song tells a tale about a woman who claims that Michael is the father, but it's actually based on groupies Michael's brothers were with during the Jackson era. **There was never a real Billie Jean. The girl in the song is a composite of people my brothers have been plagued with over the years. I could never understand how these girls could say they were carrying someone's child when it wasn't true,**" Michael said in his 1988 autobiography "Moonwalk". This song contains a catchy baseline, infectious rhythm, cinematic strings, and one of the most iconic dances to go along with the backslide, later being popularized by Michael in 1983 during the *MTV* performance and is now known as the moonwalk. The song itself won two Grammy Awards and one American Music Award. Some fun facts about the song: Quincy Jones, producer of the song, hated the bassline and didn't want the song on the album, The vocals for *Billie Jean* were recorded in one take, and the song was mixed down 91 times before it aired. In my opinion, this is one of the most iconic and influential songs of all time.

## 2) Thriller

Michael Jackson's *Thriller* is also one of the most iconic songs of all time. *Thriller* was released under the album name in 1982. This song defined Michael's career as an entertainer and changed the trajectory of music forever. Some say *Thriller* changed the music industry. It shaped how modern music was felt, sounded, and looked. This song is paired with a monumental short film that first aired on MTV on December 2, 1983. Before I get to the song itself, I need to talk about the short film. *Thriller* the film transformed music videos into its own art form, inspiring other artists to do the same. It also broke down racial barriers in popular entertainment as Michael was the first black man to be aired on MTV with this music video. It also features a legendary dance break, which is one of Michael's most iconic dances (I don't know how many times I've said the word iconic just because he is ANYWAYS) with him wearing a red leather jacket, red pants, and his well-known white socks and black turtleneck. As a dancer, *Thriller* is so influential to me and it inspires me so much. Know this dance off by heart and I could go on about *Thriller*. I recommend you watch the short film. Now, back to the song itself. *Thriller* has this spooky, theatrical sound along with it having a catchy, danceable beat to it, as it is a disco/funk song. It talks about evil, hungry zombies and ghoulies, making it feel like something straight out of a horror film. Even though it wasn't intended, *Thriller* is a classic. This song was awarded with a Grammy Award for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance. Fun Fact: *Thriller* was originally called *Starlight* and had a more upbeat feeling to it, but Michael didn't like it so he switched it to the song we know, and *Thriller* - specifically the short film - unfortunately caused Michael to be kicked out of his religion of being a Jehovah's Witness.

## 3) Beat It

This track is also from the *Thriller* album released in 1982 and a single from the album that was released again in 1983. Along with *Billie Jean* and *Thriller*, *Beat It* is one of Michael's biggest hits. This song contains Michael's iconic pop sound as well as a grittier, edgy, rock sound to it. Michael wanted this to be more of a rock song because he wanted the sound to differ from *Off the Wall*, and because of a statement MTV made that "they only play rock" when asked about how they don't televise music videos by black artists. Adding to the spectacular rock sound of *Beat It*, this song features Eddie Van Halen of the band: Van Halen, with his instantly recognizable guitar solo. This song is heavily inspired by gang violence and life on the streets, as Michael's brother Jermaine stated that it came from the Jackson family experiencing gang rivalry in Gary, Indiana. It tells us the story of how to avoid violence at all costs, pull oneself away from a fight, and be the bigger person. As with *Billie Jean*, *Beat It* also has a music video. For it, real Bloods and Crips were brought in, which I thought was very brave of Michael. *Beat It* was awarded two Grammy Awards, two American Music Awards, and was inducted into the Music Video Producers Hall of Fame. *Beat It* is one of my favourite songs from MJ. I just absolutely love the *Beat It* beat and how empowering it feels.

## 4) Black Or White

*Black or White* is from Michael's 8th studio album 'Dangerous'. It was also released as a single in 1991, serving as a lead single for *Dangerous*. *Black or White* features guitarist Slash from *Guns and Roses*, as well as Bill Bottrell on the rap verse in the chorus of the song. *Black or White* is one of Michael's most influential songs as this talks about racism and injustice, which was a topic Michael was very passionate about and something that is still very prevalent today. Lyrics like "we're one in the same" are a testament to his message.

matter if you're black or white," and the entirety of the rap verse tells us the message that it doesn't matter what the color of skin is, we are all human. Black or White also has a very known music video. It has an intro featuring Macaulay Culkin and George Wendt, and later many dancers from various cultures dancing with Michael all around the world, a message of unity and peace. Black or White is a bright, uplifting pop-rap fusion filled with catchy guitar riffs, a danceable melody, and a very strong message.



### 5) Man In The Mirror

Man In The Mirror is a song from Michael's 7th studio album 'BAD', also released as a single in 1988. Man in the Mirror is one of Michael's most popular songs. Just like Black or White, it gives us a very strong, humanitarian message as it encourages us to make the world a better place. This track features Siedah Garrett, the Andraé Crouch Choir, and the Winans. Man in the Mirror was nominated for Best Record of The Year at the 1988 Grammys, but unfortunately Michael didn't win any that year (He sure deserved those awards though). This song is about self-formation and the ability that everyone has to make a difference in our society. 'To make a difference on the outside, you must look in'. This song gives me a sense of hope when I listen to it. When feeling well or I'm in a negative headspace, this song always makes me feel better. Sometimes it makes me cry as well because it's such an emotional song. Michael's soulful singing, the choir at the end, and the instrumental really hits my soul. I feel so floaty when I listen to it. Michael is truly a genius. Also at the 1988 Grammy Awards, Michael performed this song following a performance of The Way You Make Me Feel. Definitely a must see as his passion is so visible and powerful during Man in the Mirror. As well as the music video. Fun Fact: this was one of Michael's favorite songs that he made.



## --Disc 2 Songs

### 1) Scream

Scream is the first track on the second disc of this album. It features Michael's sister Janet Jackson and is their first and only song that they sing together as a duet. Scream was written and co-produced alongside Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis.



Through this song, Michael expresses his frustration and anger with the injustice he's been facing for the last decade. It's directed towards all of the rumors and allegations the tabloids and media have been making about him since the 1980s, with rumors like bleaching his skin and sleeping in an oxygen chamber. It also shows his ability to stand up for himself and fight off the tabloids with lyrics like "You're kickin' me down, I got to get up," but also how much the rumors take a toll on him: "Oh brother, please have mercy 'cause i just can't take it". The music video for *Scream* is currently to this day the most expensive music video in history. It premiered on MTV in 1995 and also featured a behind the scenes making of it. It has been awarded with a Grammy Award for Best Music Video, a Billboard Music Video Award: Video of the Year, and has been nominated for 11 MTV Music Video Awards and one three. *Scream* is one of Michael's most hard hitting songs, as it has elements of pop, R&B, funk, electro, and dancepop. In my opinion, one of Michael's greatest songs.



## 2) They Don't Care About Us

*They Don't Care About Us* is the second track of the 2nd disc of this album. Along with *Man in the Mirror* and *Black or white*, this track is one of Michael's most powerful songs. The song brings awareness to racism and human rights, a very important message that still holds up to this day. The song has an ~~alike~~ marching beat, along with the reggae, dancehall, african feel to it, as well as Michael's iconic sound with Michael Thompson on the electric guitar. Michael's aggressive, almost pleading ~~lyrics~~ really sends the message of oppression and racism and really makes you think about how some people are affected by it today. This song was made during the *Bad* era when Michael was working on early ideas and was recorded during the *Dangerous* sessions but didn't make the final cut for that album. It eventually got revisited again in 1994 and made it on the *HISTory* album, made solely by Michael. This song received two music videos, one in a prison and one in Brazil. I highly recommend you watch i

## 3) Earth Song

*Earth Song* is the fifth track of the 2nd disc of this album. It is one of Michael's signature songs, spreading awareness about environment, also a very strong message that holds up today as we are facing horrible events like climate change, ~~and~~ deforestation animal species going extinct. Like *They Don't Care About Us*, *Earth song* was made for the *Dangerous* album but didn't make the final cut. It was also recorded in 1994 at the Hit Factory, a recording studio where most of the 2nd disc was recorded a Michael now making the outro of the song aggressive and gritty instead of the original falsetto, adding to the intensity and powerful message this song brings. A music video was released alongside the song, featuring scenes filmed in four different continents, portraying the various ways humanity is destroying the world. It was awarded with the Doris Day Music Award at the Genesis Awards and a Grammy nomination for Best Music Video in 1997. Not so fun fact: this was the last song Michael performed in his life during the *This It It* rehearsals 12 hours before he died in 2009.

## 4) Come Together

*Come Together* is a cover of the song originally by The Beatles, written by Paul McCartney and John Lennon. It is the eighth track of the second disc of *HISTory*. It was recorded in 1986 when Michael was making his *BAD* album, but it didn't make the final selection. Although, *Come Together* was featured in the *Moonwalker* movie which came out in 1988, a scene where Michael goes backstage and performs the song on stage in front of a large crowd. It was first released in 1992 as a single along with *Remy* *The Time*, then eventually found residence on the *HISTory* album. Michael puts a nice spin onto this timeless classic, as he makes i

more aggressive and rock sound similar to Dirty Diana and Give In To Me showing us the diversity and creativity of his artistry. He's truly a genius. As well as paying tribute to the Beatles, he still keeps his signature MJ flair, making this a masterpiece.

### 5) You Are Not Alone

You Are Not Alone is the ninth track on the second disc of HIStory. Along with many others on this album, it was released as a single in 1995. It was also the first collaboration of writing and producing between Michael and R. Kelly. You Are Not Alone is one of the best-selling singles Michael has released, holding the Guinness World Record for the first ever and Michael's only debut a number one spot on the Billboard Hot 100. Also reaching number one in the UK, France, Spain and more. You Are Not Alone explores themes of love and isolation, also directed to Michael's wife at the time: Lisa Marie Presley. The song is an R&B/Pop ballad, very affectionate and longing to be with someone. This song also shows off Michael's impressive vocal range, especially at the end.

### 6) Tabloid Junkie

Tabloid Junkie is the eleventh track on the second disc of HIStory. The lyrics of the song's funk rock rhythms and the lyrics convey Michael's annoyance with the way tabloids, the press, and the media have been treating him in the past ten years. Like many of his songs, this one expresses Michael's discontent with the media, especially the tabloids, for their unfavourable and biased coverage of unfounded rumours and the 1993 charges of child sexual assault. Michael's relationship with the media has been tense since the late 1980s. The tabloids published a tale in 1986 that included a picture of Michael sleeping down in a glass box and said that he slept in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber to slow down the aging process. Michael responded to this assertion by saying the story was untrue. The media saw Michael's purchase of the chimpanzee Bubbles as proof of his growing disconnection from reality. Michael was never afraid to use his art to fight back on the controversy, which is something I deeply admire. Besides the hard subject matter, the song is very danceable and always makes me head bob to the beat.

### 7) 2 Bad

2 Bad is the twelfth track on the second disc of HIStory. In the song, there is a rap verse featuring Shaquille O'Neal. The song features hip-hop, rock, and funk sounds, while the lyrics convey rage and faith in his capacity to move past those who had previously plotted against him, just like Tabloid Junkie. The beat is similar to Jam from the Dangerous album, as it had a groove built off of drum loops and samples. Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis also helped out on the song, adding keyboard bass parts. This song was produced by those two including Michael, Bruce Swedien, and René Moore. 2 Bad was featured in Michael's Ghosts short film in 1996, a 45-ish minutes long film filled with ghosts, wonder, dancing, and a lot of spooky scenes. Highly recommend watching it. One of my favourite Michael songs, and I have a lot. (I also met one of the dancers in Ghosts a few years back as she was teaching a masterclass at my studio. Pretty cool to hear about her time working with Michael.)



### 8) History

History is the title track of the HIStory album and is the thirteenth track on the second disc. It is also the sixth single from Ghosts as a double A-side single in 1997. Backing vocals are provided by Boyz II Men. Terry Lewis and James Harner III wrote and produced it. The song was completed on March 28, 1995, after being recorded for the first time on February 5, 1994. Several historical audio quotations are sampled in the song, most notably those from Muhammad Ali to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is an R&B/Pop song featuring many samples of important events in human history and historical musical compositions, including a

1970 interview with MJ, the first man on the moon, "Beethoven Lives Upstairs", Ted Kennedy's 1968 eulogy for brother Robert F. Kennedy, and many more. The song also gives us a message about peace, and leaving a strong legacy behind you. Truly a strong and inspiring song.

## -The Tour

It would feel illegal to talk about the album without talking about the AMAZING tour it came with. The HIStory world tour is the third, and unfortunately, final solo tour done by Michael. The tour went all over the world with stops in 52 cities, in 35 ~~times~~ <sup>countries</sup> in 5 continents. Really taking a world tour literally. The tour lasted from July 1996 to October 1997 and each show was around two hours long. It featured many of his classic hits like Beat It, Billie Jean, Smooth Criminal, Thriller, some ~~early~~ <sup>later</sup> hits like I Want You Back and The Love You Save, as well as hits from the HIStory Album like They Don't Care About Us, Stranger In Moscow, and Scream. Oh, to be alive during that time. I would give EVERYTHING to see Michael perform in person. He's biggest inspiration. Here's a link to watch his performance in Munich in 1997. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD00dOR14&pp=ygUGIzkxOTdv>

## -Final Overview

Michael Jackson's 'HIStory: Past, Present and Future, Book I' album is a true masterpiece. Even though this was just a school project, I still felt very honoured talking about something and someone I am very passionate about. History is definitely an album I would give to someone who is just starting ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> listen to Michael's music as it shows his diverse artistry, his classic hits, and it's basically a starter pack for new MJ listeners. As a performer and aspiring entertainer myself, I have felt deeply inspired by Michael since the age of four. I have ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> listening to his music, watching his performances, studying his movements, and truly idolizing the man. Michael has really shaped what modern music is today. Like I said before, I could go on and on about this, but that would take hours. If Michael ~~didn't~~ <sup>didn't</sup> exist, I wonder what the world would be like today. Moonwalker forever <3

-Victoria. H

Tab 4

