



“Daysleeper” Lyric Analysis

Listen to the song and study the lyrics. Then, answer each of the following questions with a complete paragraph and annotate the lyrics accordingly.

1. In a paragraph, make one specific connection between the lyrics and what you have learned about circadian rhythms. Where do you see the idea of circadian rhythms reflected in the song (aside from the explicit mention)? How does the author of the lyrics invoke the idea of importance of circadian rhythms or the imbalances that result when they are out of whack? Annotate three places in the song that illustrate those connections; mark them with a #1 and a brief explanation.

2. In a paragraph, make one specific connection between the lyrics and The Age of Miracles. Where do you see a connection between the effects of “daysleeping” and The Slowing? How does the author of each work portray the effects of unnatural sleep patterns or the importance of the sun, moon, and tides in our modern lives? Annotate three places in the song that illustrate that connection; mark them with a #2 and a brief explanation.

"Daysleeper"

By REM

Receiving department, 3 a.m.
Staff cuts have socked up the overage
Directives are posted.
No callbacks / complaints.
Everywhere is calm.
Hong Kong is present
Taipei awakes

All talk of circadian rhythm
I see today with a newsprint fray
My night is colored headache gray
Daysleeper

The bull and the bear are marking
Their territories
They're leading the blind with
Their international glories
I'm the screen the blinding light
I'm the screen, I work at night.

I see today with a newsprint fray
My night is colored headache gray
Don't wake me with so much.
Daysleeper.

I cried the other night
I can't even say why
Fluorescent flat caffeine lights
Its furious balancing

I'm the screen, the blinding light
I'm the screen, I work at night
I see today

Don't wake me with so much.
The ocean machine is set to nine
I'll squeeze into heaven and valentine
My bed is pulling me.
Gravity

Daysleeper, daysleeper.
Daysleeper, daysleeper, daysleeper