

HUMANITIES I

Unit III The Humanities in New York (8)Chapter 7. The HippiesAffective Objectives:

- A. To become aware of the values that hippies hold and the values that they criticize in American society.
- B. To begin to develop reasoned preferences for particular values.
- C. To begin conceptualizing preferred values.

Knowledge Objectives:

- A. To know what values and what characteristics of American life hippies criticize.
- B. To know what hippies value, particularly freedom, individualism, sharing (or a sense of community), and love.

Write down in a detailed list the aspects of American life and American society which make up Sonny's major criticisms.

Questions for discussion:

1. What values does Sonny believe are violated by these aspects of American life?
2. Do you agree with Sonny's diagnosis and criticism of American society? Do you believe that the values that Sonny feels are being violated should be encouraged? Why or why not?
3. Look carefully into Sonny's poem. How does he characterize the life of a hippie as opposed to the life of ordinary people? Does this sort of life appeal to you?
4. In order to promote the kind of values that the hippies believe are important, what would we have to give up? Would you be willing to give up those aspects of "the straight life" in order to live by these values?
5. Do you think that the only means of promoting the hippies' values is to leave the "straight society?" Can they be promoted within society as it exists? What changes in society might make it easier to promote these values? Make some suggestions of the kinds of changes which might be required in social institutions and in individual attitudes to promote the values of the hippies.
6. Have you any criticism of Sonny's attitude and of the way of life he advocates?