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Understanding Discrimination by Analyzing Song Lyrics:

“You've Got to Be Carefully Taught”

Richard Rodgers

Featuring: William Tabbert

Produced by: Goddard Lieberson

Album: South Pacific (Original Broadway Cast Recording)

Lyrics:

You've got to be taught to hate and fear
You've got to be taught from year to year
It's got to be drummed in your dear little ear
You've got to be carefully taught

You've got to be taught to be afraid
Of people whose eyes are oddly made
And people whose skin is a different shade
You've got to be carefully taught

You've got to be taught before it's too late
Before you are six or seven or eight
To hate all the people your relatives hate
You've got to be carefully taught

Source: <https://genius.com/Richard-rodgers-youve-got-to-be-carefully-taught-lyrics>

Questions (please answer the following questions based on the lyrics we just heard and hand them in)

1. What does this song imply (that is what does the song say)?
2. How is discrimination being transmitted in a family according to this song?
3. Can people think independently or does one's environment impact their belief? Explain.
4. What would happen if a person did not follow the rules implied by the song?
5. What can we do as a class to reduce discrimination in schools and in communities?