



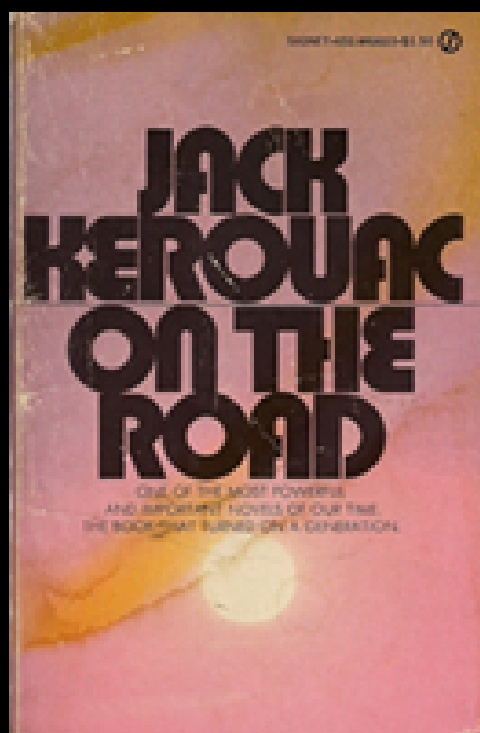
Brits Band Branded By Book

By Paige Robson

Manchester - based band The 1975 not only reference written works of literature in their lyrics but their very name derives from the pages of a book. The band is one of the many who bridge the barriers between literature and music.

The perpetual parallelism between literary and music is undeniable, usually being entwined and entangled. The abstract, ambivalent band The 1975 are no exclusion when combining the duo harmoniously. Matty Healy, George Daniel, Ross McDonald and Adam Hann compose the four-piece pop- rock band.

Frontman Healy clarifies that the name is inspired from the discovery of a copy of American novelist Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, a novel exploring the themes of freedom, travel and wandering, motifs the band investigate in their melodies. On the back page Healy describes there to be 'deranged and mental' scribbles, the date '1 June, The 1975' emerged, the band was captured by the small yet effective article. The 1975 was born. This was only the beginning of the band's linkage with literature and music.



Joshua Hilgart-Roy (2009) Jack Kerouac - *On The Road* (Paperback) \$1.50 in 1957: Flickr

Their name is not the only correlation between the band and the literary world, so do their lyrics. In their second electro-pop ballad album, *I Like It When You Sleep, For You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It* in their track 'A Change of Heart' they link to the novel with the lyrics 'I'll quote On the Road like a twat/And wind my way out of the city.' The song depicts the stages of falling out of love with someone, the employment of *On the Road* in their song generates an ambiguous effect, humorously referencing to the origins of their name and implies that Matty is running away from his beloved city in searching to fill his emptiness which is what Kerouac was portraying in the novel when writing 'A pain stabbed my heart, as it did every time, I saw a girl I loved who was going the opposite direction in this too-big world'. Despite the link the band see faults in the novel. Kerouac glorifies 'winding his way out of the city' the band juxtaposes this with running away from your problems doesn't mean you escape them.

In the same album, the song *Loving Someone* declaring its alliance with the LGBTQ+ community in everybody deserving to love and be loved. A lyric is 'Even Guy Debord needed spectacles'. Guy Debord, a French Situationist philosopher who is known for the book *Society of Spectacle*, examining the spectacle as 'autocratic reign of the market economy,' Debord references mass media, linking to the pop culture thus music. Debord interprets that the spectacle actively alters human interactions and relationships *The 1975* torment the idea that he who opposes the society of the spectacle wears the exact thing, we should do what we feel not what we see and as they say [we] should be loving someone!

'A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships', *The 1975*'s third album their song 'Surrounded by Head and Bodies' is a connection to David Foster Wallace's novel *Infinite Test* Matty found the novel on the first page where the title of the song was formed from the literal opening lines from the book. Literary influence also flows into the artist's personal lives with singer Matty,



Pitpony, photography (2016) The 1975 @ Rock im Park 2016: Wikimedia Commons

revealing the name of his pet dog, an eponym alluding to American political poet Allen Ginsburg, friend and fellow 'Beat' poets with Jack Kerouac. The political pet reference links to the ensemble making up three-time BRITS winners who through their exploration of extensive genres of music and their innuendos to written words explore troubling, taboo topics.

Ultimately, literature and music are both creative art forms, music adds a perspective to literature and literature gives words to the feelings music evokes. *The 1975* use the creative blend to enhance their sounds. The band whose very name is inspired by the pages of a book, whose lyrics use influence from the words of writers are just one example of the fluidity between the literature and music. The two art forms have beautifully integrated into one making the distinct line between the pair blurred. As after all, they are both creating the same thing. Art.

