

# Anthony music and having an ear for music



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Anthony Burgess Anthony Burgess is a British satirist writer and composer, who won the Prometheus Hall of Fame award. He was born in Manchester to a Catholic family and served in the military. He included music and musical characters regularly in his work. He believed understanding music and having an ear for music is important for a writer.

Burgess was heavily inspired by George Orwell and William Shakespeare throughout his life. This inspiration is evident in his most of his work. Some of the most directly inspired books include *1985*, a commentary book of Orwell's *1984*, as well as publishing a fictional book based on Shakespeare's life called *Nothing Like the Sun*. The author also gets the structure of the novel, *Napoleon Symphony* from Beethoven's third symphony. Summary The book starts with Alex and his gang of droogs consisting of Georgie, Dim, and Pete, sitting at the Korova milk bar, drinking milk laced with drugs.

They leave the bar to go and beat up an old professor, get into a gang fight, and steal a car. They use the car to go to a place labeled 'HOME'. There they find a writer of a manuscript labeled, *A Clockwork Orange*. They rape the writer's wife, and Dim is beat up by Alex for interrupting classical music on the way back. The next night, Alex fights his gang to assert leadership, and then tries to rob an old woman's house.

He ends up killing the woman, and his gang betrays him, turning him into the police. Alex is now in jail for 14 years, but after 2 years, he gets a chance to be part of Ludovico's treatment, where he is released after 2 weeks of treatment. During this treatment, he is shown extremely violent videos,

eventually making Alex very sick at any violent thought. Once he is released he is not welcomed by his parents and is beat up by an old gang member. He takes refuge at the writer's house whose name is revealed to be F. Alexander.

Him and his friends try to make Alex commit suicide for political gains. Alex survives, Ludovico's treatment is reversed, and he is given a stable job by the government. At the end of the book, Alex decides to give up violence and become a family man. Themes The significance of freedom of choice – One of the main themes in Burgess's "A Clockwork Orange" is the significance of freedom of choice. Burgess portrays that freedom of choice is essential to humanity.

He emphasizes that in the absence of freedom of choice; human beings shall turn into mere machines; machines capable only of clockwork. He primarily utilizes the mouthpiece of the chaplain and the mouthpiece of F. Alexander to develop this theme throughout the book.

In the text, F. Alexander says to Alex that, "They have turned you into something other than a human being. You have no power of choice any longer. You are committed to socially acceptable acts, a little machine capable only of good. And I see that clearly—that business about the marginal conditionings".

It is evident in this text, that Alex's freedom of choice has been rendered non-existent. He has been transformed into a mere puppet of the society; a puppet that adheres to the guidelines set forth by the society. They try and create mechanized goodness.

In other words, the author says that Alex has turned into someone un-human like. The theme has been repeated innumerable times throughout the book. In fact, the book also conforms to the theme of significance of freedom of choice. In the title, "A Clockwork Orange", orange represents human beings and their liveliness, however clockwork shows that humans have been stripped of their liveliness, and have been converted into machines that function similar to a clockwork day in, day out. Manipulation by the government - Another recurring theme is manipulation by the government. Throughout the text, the government is seen doing unethical things in order to stay in power. They use propaganda, technology, and fear in order to manipulate and control its citizens. The author writes, "some veck creeched: 'Smile!' and I smiled like bezoomny without thinking ... there were pictures of me and the intifmin all droogy teacher being taken" Here, Alex is tricked into smiling and snapping a picture with a government official so that everyone can see it in the news.

The false image obtained through manipulation helps the government stay in power and look good to its citizens. It is ironic how the government uses manipulation to seem unmanipulative. Form and Content Milk and nadsat (symbolism) - Burgess utilizes the symbolism of milk to represent the young and the symbolism of nadsat to represent the misunderstood. Only Alex and the droogs used nadsat; no one understood them but themselves.

The misunderstood also depicts babies, toddlers and the young since they can not speak properly This connects to the theme of government oppression, which is evident in A Clockwork Orange, his other work, and his inspirations. In the book Alex does violent acts just because it makes him feel

good. . Alex states, " They don't go into the cause of goodness, so whyof the other shop? .

. . Badness is of the self, the one, the you or me on ouruddy knockies, and that self is made by old Bog or God and is his great prideand radosty".

Alex lets his primitive desires control him. Furthermore, Burgesscomments on how the government does not understand the teens and hence, theattempts to reform these individuals are rendering ineffective. The bookstates, " Punishment means nothing to them, you can see that. They enjoy theirso-called punishment. They start murdering each other". Even Ludovico's treatment, a more scientific approach, fails to reform in a morally acceptableway. Critical Commentary Anthony Burgess' novel, " AClockwork Orange" is an innovative piece of writing.

What makes readingthis book worth your while is how different and unexpected it is.