

Name _____

Nas: The Rhyme Master of Hip-Hop

Short Answer Key

1. Nas grew up in the Queensbridge Houses, a housing project in Queens, which was known for its tough environment. The challenges and harsh realities of life in this neighborhood influenced his music, inspiring him to rap about the struggles and injustices he witnessed.
2. "Illmatic" is considered a classic in hip-hop because it showcased Nas's exceptional lyrical skills, intricate storytelling, and his ability to paint vivid pictures with words. It was a critical and commercial success, solidifying Nas's place in the hip-hop pantheon.
3. Nas's lyrics are known for being poetic and introspective. His verses delve into themes of urban life, social issues, and personal reflections. He is also known for his smooth delivery and use of multisyllabic rhyme schemes, setting him apart from many of his contemporaries.
4. Nas has used his platform to address issues such as racial inequality, police brutality, and the struggles of marginalized communities. He has been an advocate for social and political causes, using his music to raise awareness and prompt discussions on these issues.
5. According to the passage, one of Nas's most significant contributions to hip-hop is his enduring legacy marked by his storytelling prowess, lyrical dexterity, and his ability to capture the essence of life in urban America.

