

## NEWS BREAK

Article: **Bad Bunny's presence at the Super Bowl speaks volumes**

Section: **MAIN, A3**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, February 8, 2026**, of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

Feel free to adapt this lesson for your students. For instance, some educators may assign this as a homework task, while others might facilitate the reading and discussion of questions within small groups or larger class discussions.

***\*Please take a moment to review all NIE content before classroom use to ensure it is suitable for your students.\****

### **Standards:**

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1**

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2**

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

### **Learning Objectives:**

After reading the article, students will be able to analyze how a public figure's cultural presence can communicate political and social messages, even without explicit statements, and evaluate the role of art and media in shaping public discourse.

### **Pre-Reading Discussion:**



- What do you think the article will be about, using this picture?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

### **Vocabulary Building:**

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the meaning of the word.

The comments surprised some fans and observers who expected the artist, born Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, to use one of the most-watched concerts on the planet to reprise the “ICE out” **declaration** he made at the Grammy Awards last weekend or to take aim at the Trump administration’s hardline immigration policies.

### ***Declaration Guess:***

### ***Declaration Definition:***

### **Comprehension Questions:**

1. During Bad Bunny’s pre-Super Bowl news conference Thursday, the music megastar didn’t address whether his halftime show would touch on what three things?
2. Instead, the Puerto Rican artist emphasized that his highly anticipated performance Sunday at Levi’s Stadium would be centered on what?
3. The comments surprised some fans and observers who expected the artist, born Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, to use one of the most-watched concerts on the planet to reprise the “\_\_\_\_\_ declaration he made at the Grammy Awards last weekend or to take aim at the Trump administration’s hardline immigration policies.
4. But even without a sweeping political statement, supporters and critics alike say Bad Bunny’s presence on the Super Bowl stage carries weight — particularly because he will perform in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. A massively entertaining Bad Bunny performance alone would be enough to shape the \_\_\_\_\_, fans and social justice advocates say. “His presence at the Super Bowl makes a strong statement on its own.”
6. Lee and others point to Bad Bunny’s long track record of blending art with \_\_\_\_\_, particularly on behalf of Latinos, immigrants and the people of his native Puerto Rico — a U.S. territory with a fraught, century-long history of U.S. intervention.
7. He has written multiple \_\_\_\_\_ calling attention to failing infrastructure and gentrification on the archipelago and has paid for political ads criticizing Puerto Rico’s governing parties.
8. “Bad Bunny really for the entirety of his career has been protesting through what three things?

9. Díaz places the artist within a long tradition of Puerto Rican protest that uses dance, music and celebration to generate what?
10. In just the past week, Bad Bunny made music history while using his globally televised Grammy Awards appearances to do what?
11. He became the first artist to win the Grammys' album of the year for an entirely Spanish-language record. In one acceptance speech, he declared "ICE out," adding what?
12. He also dedicated his album of the year award to whom?
13. The political context surrounding the Super Bowl has grown increasingly charged in recent weeks amid nationwide protests over what?
14. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell praised the artist the day after his Grammy speech. At his annual state of the league address Monday, Goodell said Bad Bunny is "one of the great artists in the world," adding that his performance is intended to do what?

#### **Class Discussion Questions:**

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought \_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_?

#### **Deeper-Dive “Connect & Explain” comprehension questions for small groups, entire classes or journal entries and/ or essay prompts for extended enrichment:**

- How can an artist's presence alone be considered political? Use examples from the article to explain how Bad Bunny's identity, language, and platform communicate messages without explicit statements.
- The article suggests that performance and celebration can be forms of protest. Do you agree or disagree? Explain how music, dance, or joy can challenge political systems or social norms.
- How does Bad Bunny's decision to perform primarily in Spanish at the Super Bowl carry cultural significance? Why might this matter in a national event watched by millions, especially with the current racial tensions in our nation?
- What role does media coverage play in shaping how audiences interpret an artist's actions—or silence? Use examples from the article to support your response.
- The article mentions Puerto Rico's history with the United States. How does this historical context help explain Bad Bunny's activism and artistic choices?
- Should artists be expected to use major platforms to make political statements? Why or why not? Support your opinion with evidence from the article and your own reasoning.

- How does Bad Bunny challenge traditional ideas of what “American” culture looks and sounds like? What impact might this have on viewers watching the Super Bowl?
- In what ways does the article argue that silence can still be a statement? Do you think choosing not to speak can sometimes be just as powerful as speaking out? Explain.

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