

Song Lyrics/Poetry Analysis

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Writer \_\_\_\_\_

First, read the writer's biography. List two details that might have influenced the writing or your understanding of the song/poem.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

As you read the song/poem:

- Underline parts that relate to historical facts, especially African American issues
- Circle words/phrases that stir up emotions
- Place a question mark next to ideas that you don't recognize and may need to research
- Place [ ] around parts of the song/poem that seem musical (call and response, rhythm, refrain, repetition, etc.)

After you read the song/poem, answer the following questions, quoting parts of the song/poem that led to your responses:

1. What historical background does a reader need to better understand this song/poem?

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2. How does this song/poem relate to African American issues? Refer to the historical context and text of the song/poem.

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3. Look at the emotional words you circled. Are those emotions more negative, or more positive? Both? What emotions do you think the writer wanted those words make you feel?

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4. What musical qualities of the poem or song lyrics might influence the audience? How?

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5. Think about your responses to questions 2-4. What might the writer be persuading the audience to think or do? Write your responses in a sentence.

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6. What did you learn by analyzing this song/poem?