

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Annotate the lyrics as you analyze the meaning

"Strange Fruit"

Writer: Lewis Allan, Dwayne P. Wiggins

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Southern trees

Bear strange fruit

Blood on the leaves

And blood at the roots

Black bodies

Swinging in the southern breeze

Strange fruit hangin'

From the poplar trees

Pastoral scene

Of the gallant south

Them big bulging eyes

And the twisted mouth

Scent of magnolia

Clean and fresh

Then the sudden smell

Of burnin' flesh

Here is a fruit

For the crows to pluck

For the rain to gather

For the wind to suck

For the sun to rot

For the leaves to drop

Here is

Strange and bitter crop

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"Old Jim Crow"

Writers: Jackie Alper, Ron Vander Groef, Nina Simone

Copyright: WB Music Corp.

Old Jim Crow

Where you been baby

Down Mississippi and back again

Old Jim Crow don't you know

It's all over now

Old Jim Crow

What's wrong with you

It ain't your name

It's the things you do

Old Jim Crow don't you know

It's all over now

Old Jim Crow

You've been around too long

Gotta work the devil

'Til your dead and gone

Old Jim Crow

Yes, don't you know

It's all over now

It's all over now

Old Jim Crow

You know it's true

When you hurt my brother

You hurt me too

Old Jim Crow don't you know

It's all over now

Old Jim Crow

I thought I had you beat

Now I see you walkin'

And talkin' up and down my street

Old Jim Crow don't you know

It's all over now

Old Jim Crow

You've been around too long

Gotta work the devil

'Til your dead and gone

Old Jim Crow don't you know

It's all over

All over

Oh Lord, it's all over

All over

It's all over

It's all over

It's all over now.

Annotate the lyrics as you analyze the meaning

"Mississippi Goddam"

Writer: Nina Simone

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The name of this tune is Mississippi
Goddam
And I mean every word of it

Alabama's gotten me so upset
Tennessee made me lose my rest
And everybody knows about
Mississippi Goddam

Alabama's gotten me so upset
Tennessee made me lose my rest
And everybody knows about
Mississippi Goddam

Can't you see it
Can't you feel it
It's all in the air
I can't stand the pressure much
longer
Somebody say a prayer

Alabama's gotten me so upset
Tennessee made me lose my rest
And everybody knows about
Mississippi Goddam

This is a show tune
But the show hasn't been written
for it, yet

Hound dogs on my trail
School children sitting in jail
Black cat cross my path
I think every day's gonna be my
last

Lord have mercy on this land of
mine
We all gonna get it in due time
I don't belong here
I don't belong there
I've even stopped believing in
prayer

Don't tell me
I tell you
Me and my people just about due
I've been there so I know
They keep on saying "Go slow!"

But that's just the trouble
"do it slow"
Washing the windows
"do it slow"
Picking the cotton
"do it slow"
You're just plain rotten
"do it slow"
You're too damn lazy
"do it slow"
The thinking's crazy
"do it slow"

Where am I going
What am I doing
I don't know
I don't know

Just try to do your very best
Stand up be counted with all the
rest
For everybody knows about
Mississippi Goddam

I made you thought I was kiddin'

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Picket lines
School boy cots
They try to say it's a communist
plot
All I want is equality
for my sister my brother my people
and me

Yes you lied to me all these years
You told me to wash and clean my
ears
And talk real fine just like a lady
And you'd stop calling me Sister
Sadie

Oh but this whole country is full of
lies
You're all gonna die and die like
flies
I don't trust you any more
You keep on saying "Go slow!"
"Go slow!"

But that's just the trouble
"do it slow"
Desegregation
"do it slow"
Mass participation
"do it slow"
Reunification
"do it slow"
Do things gradually
"do it slow"
But bring more tragedy
"do it slow"
Why don't you see it
Why don't you feel it
I don't know
I don't know

You don't have to live next to me
Just give me my equality
Everybody knows about Mississippi
Everybody knows about Alabama
Everybody knows about Mississippi
Goddam

That's it!

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Annotate the lyrics as you analyze the meaning

"I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free"

Writers: William Taylor and Richard Carroll Lamb

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I wish I knew how
It would feel to be free
I wish I could break
All the chains holding me
I wish I could say
All the things that I should to say
Say 'em loud say 'em clear
For the whole round world to hear

I wish I could share
All the love that's in my heart
Remove all the bars
That keep us apart
I wish you could know
What it means to be me
Then you'd see and agree
Everyone should be free

I wish I could give
All I'm longin' to give
I wish I could live
Like I'm longin' to live
I wish I could do
All the things that I can do
Though I'm way overdue
I'd be starting anew.

I wish I could be like a bird in the
sky
How sweet it would be
If I found out I could fly
I'd soar to the sun
And look down at the sea
And I sing 'cause I know

Annotate the lyrics as you analyze the meaning

"Why? (The King Of Love Is Dead)"

Writer: Gene Taylor

Copyright: Sony/Bmg Int'l

What's gonna happen now? In
all of our cities?
My people are rising; they're
living in lies.
Even if they have to die
Even if they have to die at the
moment they know what life is
Even at that one moment that
ya know what life is
If you have to die, it's all right
Cause you know what life is
You know what freedom is for
one moment of your life

But he had seen the
mountaintop
And he knew he could not stop
Always living with the threat of
death ahead
Folks you'd better stop and think
Everybody knows we're on the
brink
What will happen, now that the
King is dead?

We can all shed tears; it won't
change a thing
Teach your people: Will they
ever learn?
Must you always kill with burn
and burn with guns
And kill with guns and burn -
don't you know how we gotta
react?

But he had seen the
mountaintop

And he knew he could not stop
Always living with the threat of
death ahead
Folks you'd better stop and think
Everybody knows we're on the
brink
What will happen, now that the
King of love is dead?