Reconstruction’s Legacy Seen in Music

Listen to the songs from the reconstruction era, read the lyrics, and answer the following questions

**The Gospel Train’s A’Comin**:

What is the song about?

What are the main issues addressed in the song?

What was going on in the country at the time?

Who is the audience?

Why did the artist write it?

How does the music support the lyrics?

Write a key phrase that you think summarizes the message of the song

How did this song make YOU feel?

**Drinking Gourd:**

What is the song about?

What are the main issues addressed in the song?

What was going on in the country at the time?

Who is the audience?

Why did the artist write it?

How does the music support the lyrics?

Write a key phrase that you think summarizes the message of the song

How did this song make YOU feel?

After you have analyzed both songs, what do they tell you about what people valued? What was the message they were hoping to convey?

How do you know?

Do you feel that this music was a force that helped to motivate people? To do what? Explain

2. Listen to the songs from the civil rights era (1950s-60s) and read the lyrics

**Strange Fruit:**

What is the song about?

What are the main issues addressed in the song?

What was going on in the country at the time?

Who is the audience?

Why did the artist write it?

How does the music support the lyrics?

Write a key phrase that you think summarizes the message of the song

How did this song make YOU feel?

**A Change is Gonna Come:**

What is the song about?

What are the main issues addressed in the song?

What was going on in the country at the time?

Who is the audience?

Why did the artist write it?

How does the music support the lyrics?

Write a key phrase that you think summarizes the message of the song

How did this song make YOU feel?

After you have analyzed both songs, what do they tell you about what people valued? What was the message they were hoping to convey?

How do you know?

Do you feel that this music was a force that helped to motivate people? To do what? Explain

3. Listen to the songs from the 1980s-90s (early rap) and read the lyrics

**Don’t Believe the Hype:**

What is the song about?

What are the main issues addressed in the song?

What was going on in the country at the time?

Who is the audience?

Why did the artist write it?

How does the music support the lyrics?

Write a key phrase that you think summarizes the message of the song

How did this song make YOU feel?

**Changes:**

What is the song about?

What are the main issues addressed in the song?

What was going on in the country at the time?

Who is the audience?

Why did the artist write it?

How does the music support the lyrics?

Write a key phrase that you think summarizes the message of the song

How did this song make YOU feel?

After you have analyzed both songs, what do they tell you about what people valued? What was the message they were hoping to convey?

How do you know?

Do you feel that this music was a force that helped to motivate people? To do what? Explain

4. Listen to the songs from current day and read the lyrics

**The Blacker the Berry:**

What is the song about?

What are the main issues addressed in the song?

What was going on in the country at the time?

Who is the audience?

Why did the artist write it?

How does the music support the lyrics?

Write a key phrase that you think summarizes the message of the song

How did this song make YOU feel?

**Black America Again:**

What is the song about?

What are the main issues addressed in the song?

What was going on in the country at the time?

Who is the audience?

Why did the artist write it?

How does the music support the lyrics?

Write a key phrase that you think summarizes the message of the song

How did this song make YOU feel?

After you have analyzed both songs, what do they tell you about what people valued? What was the message they were hoping to convey?

How do you know?

Do you feel that this music was a force that helped to motivate people? To do what? Explain

WRAP UP:

How does music reflect the values of the era? How can music make something more “visible” such as a social issue?

How has the message remained the same throughout the 150 years represented in these songs?

Now, go and find 2 songs that you feel are a commentary or reflect a social issue. It does not have to be about race. You will create a google slide show to share with me and the class:

* The name of each song, artist, year
* Summarize what each is about
* What is the overall message
* Create an “advertisement” for the message.
* Be able to explain your song and your message