



LISTENING GUIDE

“A CHANGE IS GONNA COME” BY SAM COOKE

Meets National Core Arts Standards 5, 7, 9, and 11

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and refine artistic work for presentation (*Pr5*)
- Perceive and analyze artistic work (*Re7*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (*Re9*)
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding (*Cn11*)

MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (Vol.39 No.7)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access
- “A Change You Want” worksheet

START

Ask your students to read “Listening Guide” on pages 18-19.

DEVELOP

Play “A Change Is Gonna Come” by Sam Cooke (*Hear the Music track 2 on musicalive.com*) while having the students follow along with the timeline.

2. Ask students about the song

What instruments do you hear in the intro?

In the intro, are there long notes, short notes, or both?

Is the tempo fast or slow?

What genre is the song? How do you know?

What is this song about?

What adjectives would you use to describe this song?

What is unique about Cooke’s voice?

How does this song make you feel?

Do you like the song? Why or why not?

3. Ask students about Sam Cooke and the story behind the song

Ask students if anyone can describe the nature of the civil rights movement and why this song would have been relevant during that time.

What was Sam Cooke known for during his career?

When it was first released, how was “A Change Is Gonna Come” different from the sound he was known for at the time?

What inspired Cooke to write “A Change Is Gonna Come?”

Who was a source of inspiration for Cooke?

Why was he inspired by Bob Dylan?

CLOSE

As a class, watch the official lyric video for “A Change Is Gonna Come.” This video shows the many civil-rights changes that have happened since Cooke’s 1964 song—changes that, unfortunately, he did not live to see. Watch at: tiny.cc/ma397cooke

Discuss Cooke’s motivation behind writing the song and how powerful change can be. Have students complete the “A Change You Want” worksheet. The goal is to get students thinking and talking about changes they want to see in themselves, their communities, countries or the world. When everyone is finished, have a classroom discussion about their answers.

ASSESS

Did the students follow along with the Listening Guide?

Did they listen to the song using the timeline?

Did they answer the supplemental questions?

Did they fill out the “A Change You Want” worksheet completely and honestly?

QUIZ ANSWERS

This month’s quizzes are available at musicalive.com/the-quiz-zone-39-7. Here are the quiz answers:

POP HARMONIES

1. Barbershop singing style is four-part vocal harmony, and it was popular between the 1800s and the 1920s
2. The Boswell Sisters
3. The Andrews Sisters were a trio of singers very much like the Boswells, and Bette Midler, Christina Aguilera and Pentatonix all cite them as an inspiration
4. He put on a show by dancing, singing, jumping and praying during performances
5. “Rag Mop,” “Undecided,” “You, You, You”
6. The Everly Brothers
7. Franki Valli and The Four Seasons
8. Electric, acoustic, country, rock, pop
9. “Bohemian Rhapsody”
10. 1980s and 90s

NEW AGE MUSIC

1. 1960s
2. If it has nature sounds, soothing ambience, etc.
3. People were focused on spiritual health and practicing things like yoga and meditation
4. Folk, classical, world music, jazz
5. To connect to your “higher self,” do yoga, find inner peace, enhance harmony
6. People began to shift their focus to mental, physical and spiritual health
7. Extended laughter followed by deep meditation; first you find happiness and bliss by laughing and then find peace and self-reflection through meditation
8. Young people are more likely to enjoy experimental, unconventional music
9. Someone who practices yoga
10. How it makes you feel

ONEREPUBLIC

1. Ryan Tedder, Zach Filkinis, Eddie Fisher, Brent Kutzle, Drew Brown
2. This Beautiful Mess
3. Fear of legal trouble from similarly named bands
4. Dreaming Out Loud
5. “Counting Stars”
6. Tedder was dealing with anxiety over long hours
7. “Better Days”
8. OneRepublic fans in quarantine as well as first responders in action during the coronavirus spread
9. “Better Days” is about staying hopeful and positive through challenging times
10. “Apologize,” “Feel Again,” “Secrets,” “All the Right Moves,” “Good Life,” “No Vacancy,” “Rich Love,” “Didn’t I”