



Handout - Song Lyric Analysis

Song 1: "Ballad of the Green Berets," Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler (1966)

Part 1

Based on the title, and any prior knowledge about the artist or time period, what do you predict the song will be about?

Read the lyrics on the next page all the way through. What are your initial impressions?

Read the lyrics again, this time with a highlighter and pencil nearby. Circle key words and make notes. Look for unique words, symbols, metaphors, personification, or any surprising, interesting, or thought provoking words or phrases. List the words and phrases below:

What is the mood of the song? What is the lyricist's overall message?

Part 2 *After listening to the song individually or collectively answer the following questions:*

Does the music match the mood of the song? Explain?

Who is the intended audience for this song? Why do you think so?

What is the message the artist is trying to convey in the song? How did it make you feel?



Lyrics to "Ballad of the Green Berets," Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler (1966)

Fighting Soldiers from the sky
Fearless men who jump and die
Men who mean just what they say
The brave men of the Green Beret

Silver Wings upon their chest
These are men America's best
100 men will test today
But only 3 win the Green Beret

Trained to live of nature's land
Trained in combat hand to hand
Men who fight by night and day
Courage take from the Green Beret

Silver Wings upon their chest
These are men America's best
100 men will test today
But only 3 win the Green Beret

Back at home a young wife waits
Her Green Beret has met his fate
He has died for those oppressed
Leaving her his last request

Put Silver Wings on my son's chest
Make him one of America's best
He'll be a man he'll test one day
Have him win the Green Beret



Song 2: "Born In The U.S.A. ," Bruce Springsteen (1984)

Part 1

Based on the title, and any prior knowledge about the artist or time period, what do you predict the song will be about?

Read the lyrics on the next page all the way through. What are your initial impressions?

Read the lyrics again, this time with a highlighter and pencil nearby. Circle key words and make notes. Look for unique words, symbols, metaphors, personification, or any surprising, interesting, or thought provoking words or phrases. List the words and phrases below:

What is the mood of the song? What is the lyricist's overall message?

Part 2 *After listening to the song individually or collectively answer the following questions:*

Does the music match the mood of the song? Explain?

Who is the intended audience for this song? Why do you think so?

What is the message the artist is trying to convey in the song? How did it make you feel?



Lyrics to "Born In The U.S.A. ," Bruce Springsteen (1984)

Born down in a dead man's town
The first kick I took was when I hit the ground
You end up like a dog that's been beat too much
'Til you spend half your life just coverin' up

Born in the U.S.A
I was born in the U.S.A
I was born in the U.S.A
Born in the U.S.A

Got in a little hometown jam
So they put a rifle in my hand
Sent me off to a foreign land
To go and kill the yellow man

Born in the U.S.A
I was born in the U.S.A
I was born in the U.S.A
I was born in the U.S.A

Come back home to the refinery
Hiring man says, "Son if it was up to me"
Went down to see my V.A. man
He said, "Son, don't you understand"