student activity 1

Soundtrack of My Life
Fill in the blanks below and discover what the soundtrack of your life might sound like.

1. When I’m angry, I have to hear: ________________________________________________

2. When I’m feeling down, I listen to: _____________________________________________

3. The past year has felt like this: ________________________________________________

4. When I want to feel better, I play this: __________________________________________

5. This song always gives me energy: _____________________________________________

6. I feel empowered and confident when I hear: ____________________________________

7. A song that relaxes me is: ____________________________________________________

8. This song understands me: ____________________________________________________

9. This song reminds me of my favorite person: _____________________________________

10. A song that brings back nice memories is: ______________________________________

11. My personality could be summed up as: _________________________________________

12. If my life were a show, the theme song would be: _________________________________

13. I could play this song on repeat all day: ________________________________________

14. My favorite song of all time: _________________________________________________
**student activity 2**

Name ___________________________    Date ______________________

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**Echoes of “The Lion”**

**Life Event**  | **Event/Terms**  | **Then: Word Bank**  | **Now: Word Bank**
---|---|---|---
1900s: Willie “The Lion” Smith’s family moves to Newark with his grandma, who retired from performing banjo with Primrose & West Minstrels. | | |
1910: 1.6 million African Americans move from rural south to northern cities to get away from racist laws and find opportunities. | | |
1910s: Willie “The Lion” Smith joins a gang. He becomes known for his playing at saloons and clubs. | | |
1916: He enlists in the 15th Infantry Regiment, spending 49 days in battle. He’s called “The Lion” for his weaponry skills. | | |
1920s: Willie “The Lion” Smith returns home and continues playing in New York City. He becomes a major influence to jazz legend Duke Ellington and many others. | | |

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**Then and Now**

**Column 2 (Events/Terms):** After the film, see where each event or term fits for each time period in Willie “The Lion” Smith’s life: Cakewalk, First Great Migration, Harlem Renaissance, Harlem Stride, Jim Crow Laws, Minstrel Shows, Ragtime, WWI

**Column 3 (Then: Word Bank):** Watch/read from the links in the Reflect, Respond, Read section of the PERFORM chart. After each video/article, create a word bank of words that come to mind in response to what you just watched, heard or read.

**Column 4 (Now: Word Bank):** Select 4 current events or issues to focus on in the “Now” section. Create a bank of words for each event or issue.
Then and Now Part 2: Creating an Original Spoken Word Piece

In your groups, follow these steps to write your original spoken word piece.

1. Choose two topics from both column 3 (Then) and column 4 (Now). Determine how these topics are connected and what the theme might be. Write your responses in the table below.
2. As a group, determine which spoken word style you would like to use to tell your truth.
3. Pick four favorite words from your collective word banks – the ones that stand out and resonate with you the most.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Connections/ Theme</th>
<th>Then: Word Bank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Then Topic 1:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Then Topic 2:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Now Topic 1:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Now Topic 2:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spoken word style:

*Echoes of “The Lion”*
Then and Now Part 2: Creating an Original Spoken Word Piece

In your groups, continue with these steps to write your original spoken word piece.

4. Write a line of verse (or a sentence) for each favorite word. Each person can take a different word to write about. Keep the connections and theme in mind while writing to stay on track.
5. To build a stanza or paragraph, arrange the lines/sentences until they are in an order that makes sense.
6. Revise the wording in the stanza or paragraph for flow, making sure everyone in the group is satisfied with it.
7. Repeat for the remaining topics. Arrange the stanzas/paragraphs for flow. Revise wording, if necessary.
8. Lastly, give your work a title.

Use this space for brainstorming and the next page for your final piece.
Then and Now Part 2: Creating an Original Spoken Word Piece
Use the space below to help write your piece.

Title: ___________________________________________________

Verse 1
Word: ____________________ Sentence: ____________________

Verse 2
Word: ____________________ Sentence: ____________________

Verse 3
Word: ____________________ Sentence: ____________________

Verse 4
Word: ____________________ Sentence: ____________________

Echoes of “The Lion”