

student activity 1

Name _____ Date _____

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 _____

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.

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.			

student activity 2

Name _____ Date _____

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.

Topics	Connections/ Theme	Then: Word Bank
Then Topic 1:		
Then Topic 2:		
Now Topic 1:		
Now Topic 2:		

Spoken word style: _____

Echoes of "The Lion"

student activity 1

Name _____ Date _____

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: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Verse 2

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Verse 3

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Verse 4

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____

Word: _____ Sentence: _____