

Sheet Music Analysis Guiding Questions

OBSERVE

Identify and note details

- What is the theme of this song? How do you know?
- What is the title of this music? What other names or places are listed on the cover? Does the text tell you anything about the type of music?
- Describe any images, illustrations or designs found on the cover and inside pages.
- What names or places appear in the lyrics, if present?
- Are there details that suggest which instruments should be used to play this music?
- Does the sheet music list the music's tempo?
- Are there details that suggest the time period this music relates to? Is the creation date listed on the sheet music or in the bibliographic record? If the creation date is listed, was this music published at or around the same time period the content relates to?
- What other details can you see?

REFLECT

Generate and test hypotheses

- How might the instrumentation affect the feeling or mood of the song?
- Why do you think creator chose this particular tempo? How might the tempo affect the feeling or mood of the music?
- Why do you think this sheet music was published? What might have been the creator's purpose? What evidence supports your theory?
- Who do you think was the audience for this sheet music?
- What do you think the creator might have wanted the audience to think or feel?
- Can you hum the melody? If so, how does it make you feel?
- Does the sheet music show bias through lyrics or tone? If so, towards what or whom? What evidence supports your conclusion?
- What was happening during the time period this sheet music represents? If someone published this sheet music today, what would be different/the same?
- What did you learn from examining this sheet music? Does any new information you learned contradict or support your prior knowledge about the topic of this sheet music?

QUESTION

What didn't you learn that you would like to know about? What questions does this sheet music raise? What do you wonder about . . .

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- How?

What sources might you consult to learn more?