

ANALYZE A CIVIL RIGHTS ANTHEM

We Shall Overcome

For the lyrics, which currently are copyrighted, go to one of these sites:

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/lyrical/songs/overcome.html>

<https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/documented-rights/exhibit/section5/detail/we-shall-overcome-lyrics.html>

http://lyricstrue.net/bandsongtext/Unknown/We_Shall_Overcome.html

Interpretation Guide: Polk Bros. Center for Urban Education © 2012 teacher.depaul.edu
Common Core Anchor Reading Standard 5—How does the writer use techniques to communicate the theme or message?

People sang this song when they were facing challenges during the Civil Rights movement. They were facing serious challenges. African Americans did not have the same rights as other Americans; the Civil Rights movement was a struggle for equality.

- ❖ What words are most important to understanding this song?
- ❖ What is the message or theme of the song?
- ❖ What techniques did the writer use to make sure that people understand the message?
- ❖ Which stanza/part do you think is the most important? Why?
- ❖ Why would people sing this song when facing opposition?
- ❖ Why is this song relevant today?

Think More to Learn More: Write the next part of the song!