

I've Got Peace Like a River

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I've got peace like a river
in my soul
I've got a river in my soul

I've got joy like a fountain
in my soul
I've got a fountain in my soul

I've got love like an ocean
in my soul
I've got an ocean in my soul

Analyze Author's Techniques, including Figurative Language – Poem/Song

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Why does the writer say peace is “like a river”?

- a. Rivers are water.
- b. Rivers are blue and big.
- c. Rivers keep moving in one direction.
- d. Rivers are busy.

3. Why does the writer say love is “like an ocean”?

- a. Oceans have waves.
- b. Oceans are salt water.
- c. Oceans are very big.
- d. Oceans change.

2. Why does the writer say joy is “like a fountain”?

- a. to show that joy is like bubbles
- b. because joy is like water
- c. it washes things
- d. it sparkles

4. What is the message of the song?

- a. The person is sad.
- b. The person feels good.
- c. The person solves a problem.
- d. The person was worried.

5. Write your own answer to this question. A spiritual is written to help people share a feeling. What feeling does this spiritual give you?

How does it give you that feeling?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	a	c	b

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

Answers will vary but students should explain how they feel and how the song affected them.