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| **Cold War Songs Analysis Sheet: Song Set A** |
| **Atom And Evil: The Golden Gate Quartet [1947]** |
| 1. The Golden Gate Quartet speaks of "Miss Evil" throughout. Who or what is "Miss Evil" referring to and why might the songwriters believe it is evil? (Evil is not the atomic bomb) |
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| 1. The songwriters say that Atom and Evil's romance should be broken up. Why do you think they describe Atom and Evil as a romance and what might the consequences be if that romance is not broken up? |
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| 1. The songwriters say that if Atom and Evil are wed, many humans will die. In terms of who it kills, how is the atomic bomb different than most other military weapons? |
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| 1. Think about how the song sounds as far as its tone. [Is it loud, soft, simple, complex, rock-and roll or country blues.] Think about the phrasing of the song or its melody. [Does the singer emphasize words, get loud only at certain times, or is it the same throughout?] In what ways does the song’s tone and melody contribute to the arguments the singer is making? |
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| **Old Man Atom: The Sons Of The Pioneers [1950]** |
| 1. If Einstein was scared as the songwriter's argue, why is that significant? What was Einstein scared of and did he have reason to be scared? |
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| 1. The line "To be or not to be! That's the question!" is a famous quote from William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. How does this quote relate to using atomic bombs? Who do the songwriters say are responsible for what happens with atomic bombs? Should those people be trusted? |
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| 1. How is it that atomic bombs can't be "fenced in"? In this sense, how are atomic bombs different than typical military weapons? |
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| 1. The last line of the song says, "Peace in the world, or the world in pieces!" Why do you think the songwriters believe that the world will be destroyed if peace can't be found? |
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| 1. Think about how the song sounds as far as its tone. [Is it loud, soft, simple, complex, rock-and roll or country blues.] Think about the phrasing of the song or its melody. [Does the singer emphasize words, get loud only at certain times, or is it the same throughout?] In what ways does the song’s tone and melody contribute to the arguments the singer is making? |
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| **Atomic Sermon: Billy Hughes and his Rhythm Buckeroos [1953]** |
| 1. Atomic Sermon is structured as a church sermon. The songwriter writes that he is scared and that, "We're gettin' close to that great day". What day is the songwriter talking about? Was this a legitimate fear during the Cold War? Why? |
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| 1. Throughout "Atomic Sermon," the songwriters say that scientists should be stopped. Is there a danger in taking science too far? What are some of those dangers? |
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| 1. Think about how the song sounds as far as its tone. [Is it loud, soft, simple, complex, rock-and roll or country blues.] Think about the phrasing of the song or its melody. [Does the singer emphasize words, get loud only at certain times, or is it the same throughout?] In what ways does the song’s tone and melody contribute to the arguments the singer is making? |
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| **In the box below, summarize the arguments made against pursuing nuclear weapons in the songs you’ve examined.** |
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