

Middle School Unit: John Coltrane/"5" Royales – Student Handouts
STUDENT HANDOUTS

Below is a list of the student handouts. You can make photocopies of these handouts for each of your students.

Lesson 1: John Coltrane: An Introduction

- Frayer Diagrams (optional)
- Vocabulary List
(Vocabulary lists are optional. Teacher may prefer projecting words on board.)
- Reading Selection: John Coltrane: An Introduction
- Multiple Choice Questions
- Timeline template
- Discussion/Writing Activity

Lesson 2: John Coltrane: Early Years, Parts I and II

- Vocabulary List (optional)
- Reading Selection: John Coltrane: Early Years, Parts I and II
- Multiple Choice Questions
- Discussion/Writing Activity
- Optional Discussion/Writing Activity (Language Arts oriented)

Lesson 3: John Coltrane: “My Favorite Things”

- Vocabulary List - (optional)
- Reading Selection: John Coltrane: “My Favorite Things”
- Multiple Choice Questions
- Discussion/Writing Activity
- Optional Writing Activity (Language Arts Oriented)

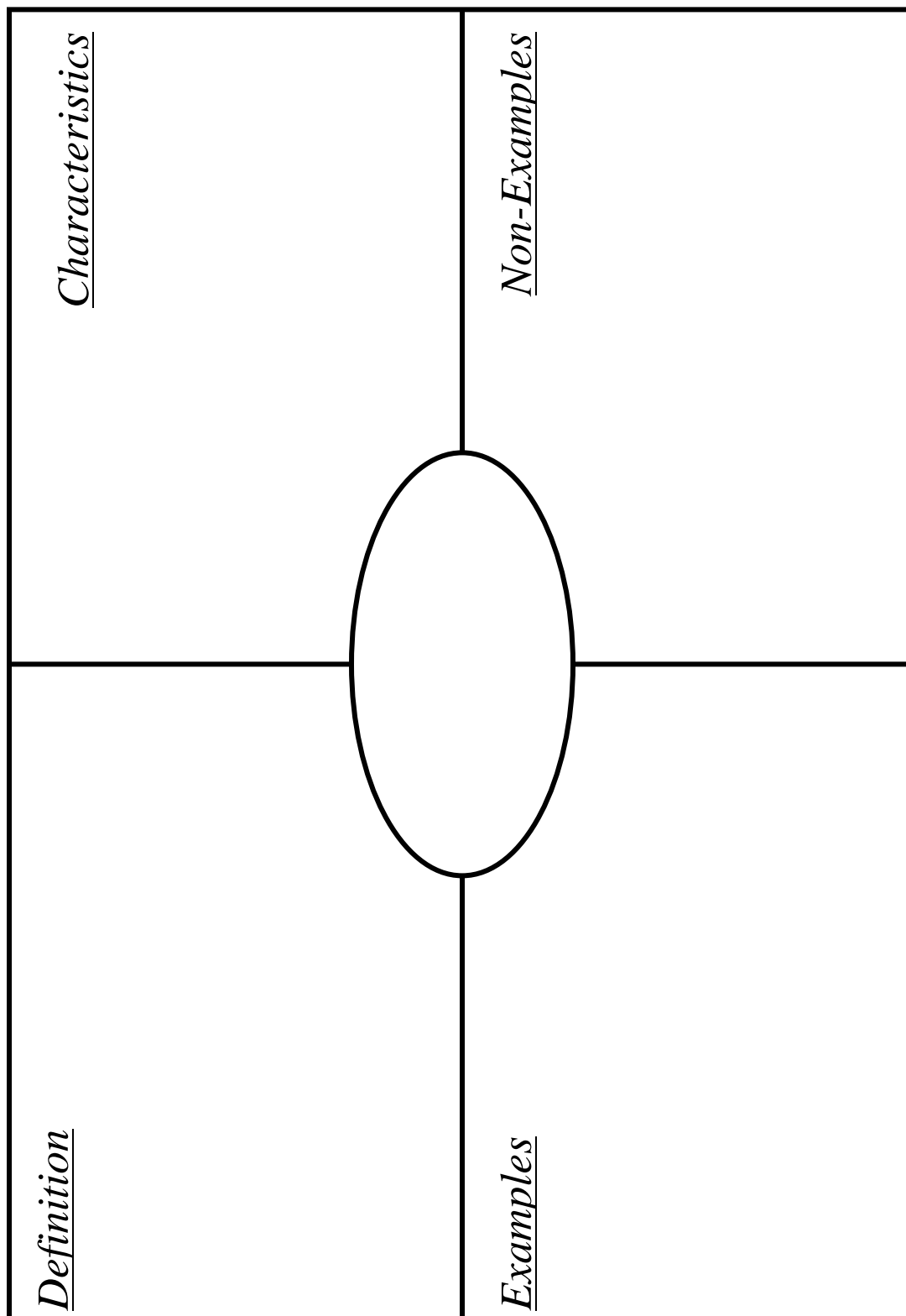
Lesson 4: “5” Royales: An Introduction; “Dedicated to the One I Love”

- Vocabulary List: “5” Royales: An Introduction (optional)
- Reading Selection: “5” Royales: An Introduction
- Multiple Choice Questions
- Vocabulary List: “5” Royales:” Birmingham, Alabama, 1963 (optional)
- Reading Selection: “5” Royales:” Birmingham, Alabama, 1963
- Multiple Choice Questions
- Discussion/Writing Activity

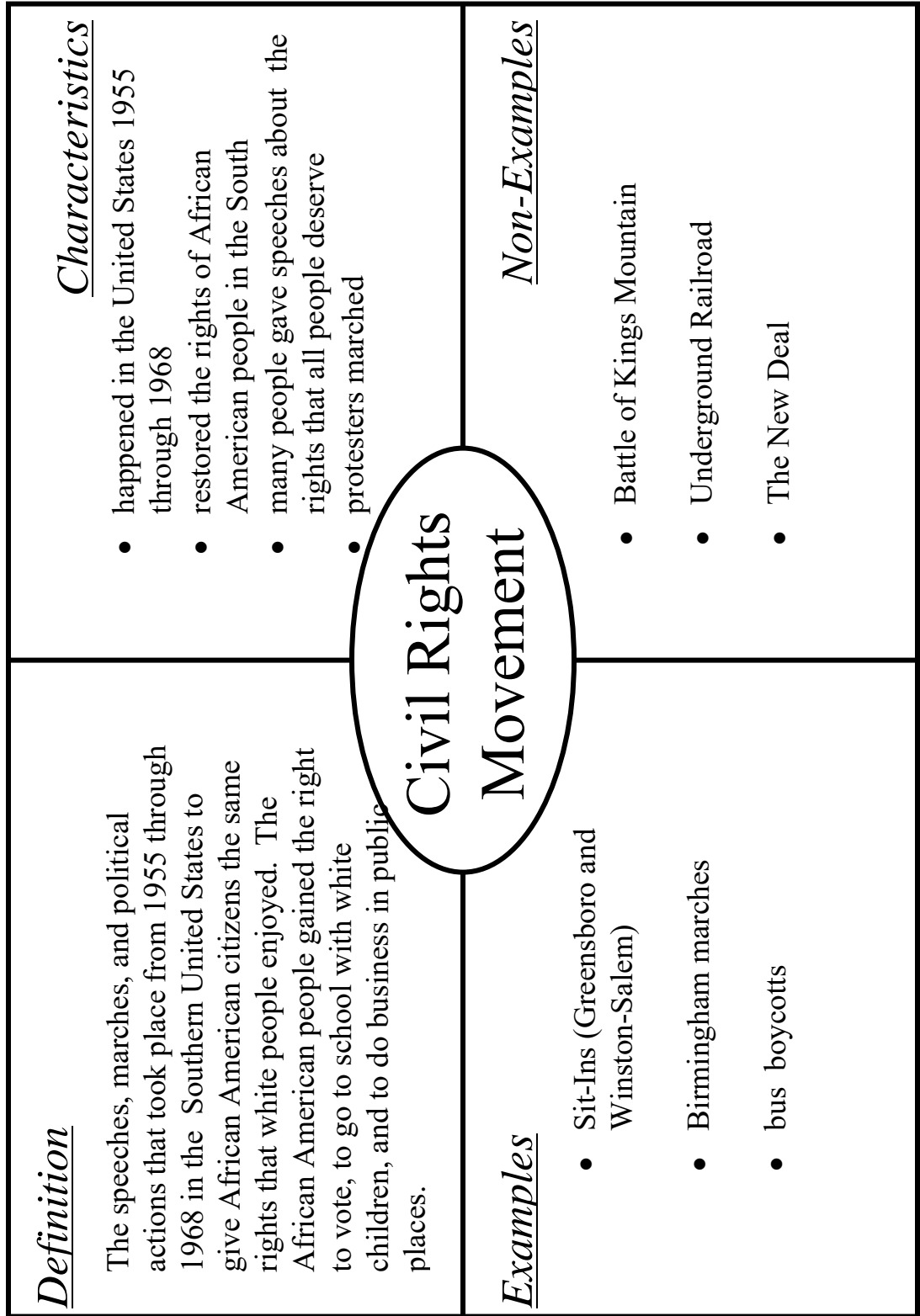
Lesson 5: “5” Royales: Growing Up in Winston-Salem; Birmingham, Alabama

- Vocabulary List for Growing Up in Winston-Salem (optional)
- Reading Selection: “5” Royales: Growing Up in Winston-Salem
- Discussion/Writing Activity
- Optional Vocabulary List: “Dedicated to the One I Love”
- Optional Reading Selection: “Dedicated to the One I Love”
- **Letter to Parents**

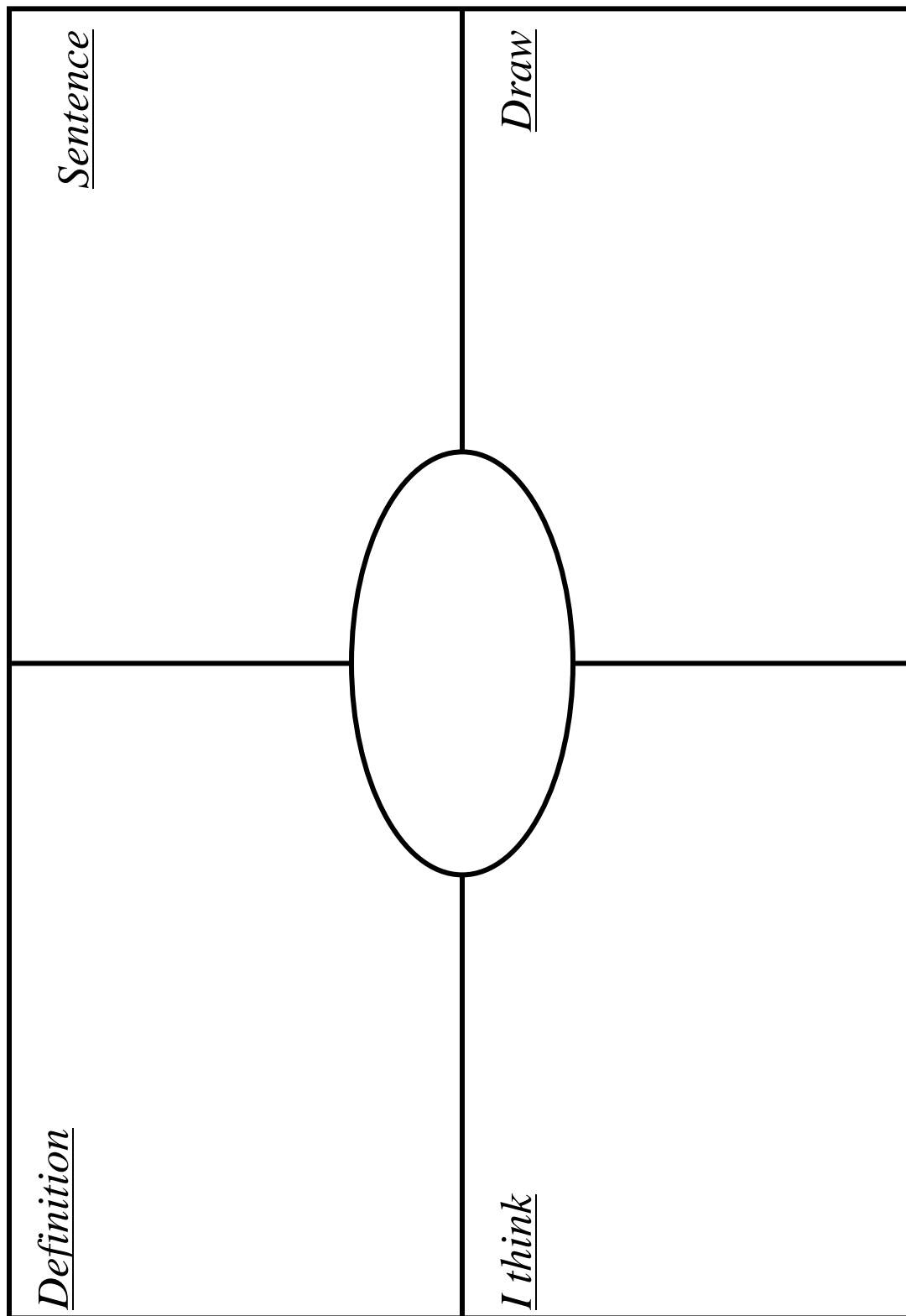
Frayer Diagram 1



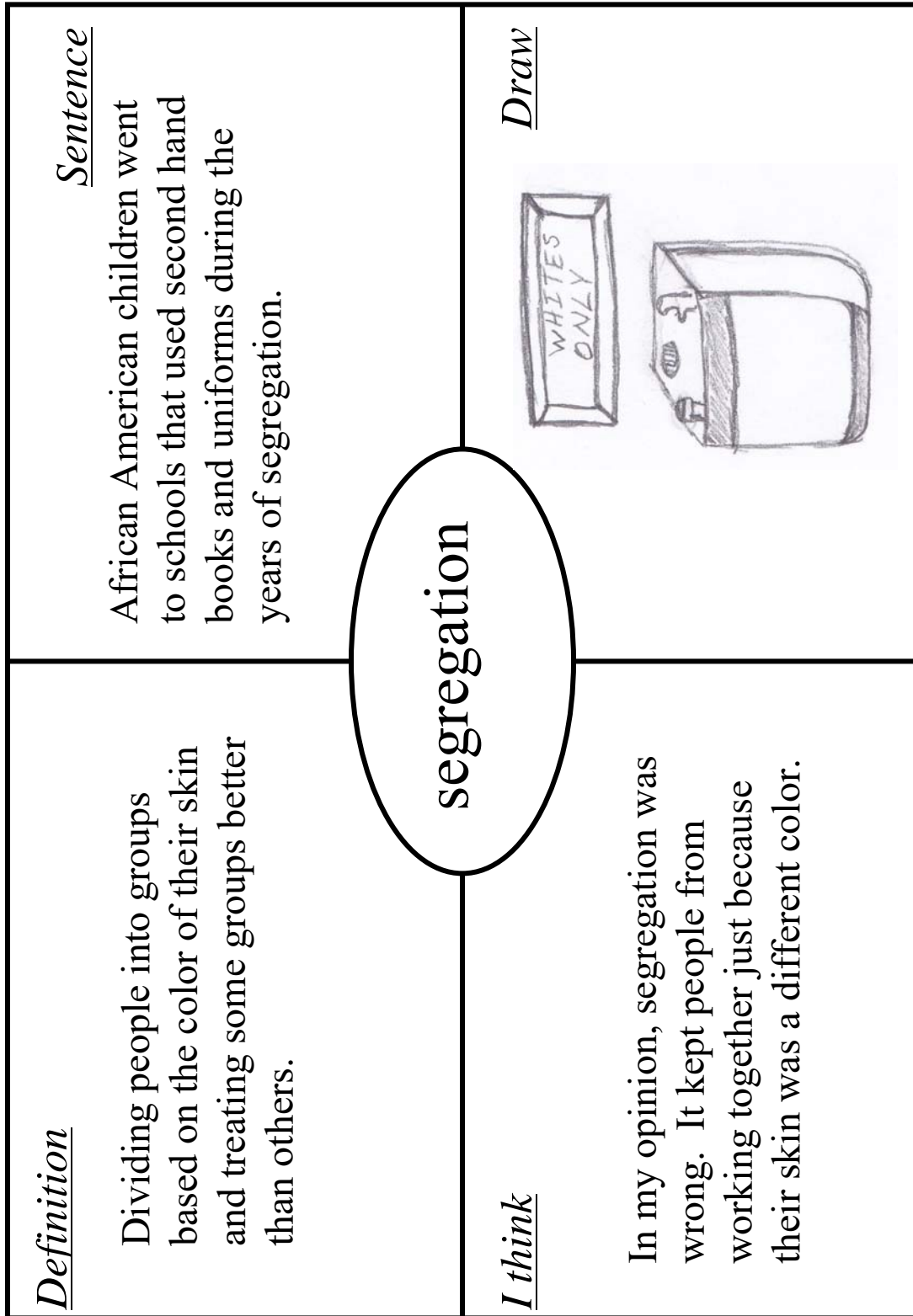
Frayer Diagram 1 (Example)



Frayer Diagram 2



Frayer Diagram 2 (Example)



Lesson 1 - John Coltrane: An Introduction

Vocabulary List

segregation (noun) the practice of keeping people apart because of their race or culture.

Great Depression: (noun) a period in the United States lasting from 1929 to 1941 when many people lost their jobs and had little money. The Great Depression was caused by the stock market crash in October 1929.

World War II: (noun) a war that began in 1939. In this war, the Allied Powers—Britain, France, and the Soviet Union—fought against Germany, Italy, and Japan. The United States joined the Allied Powers after December 7, 1941. On that day, Japan bombed American ships at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Civil Rights Movement: (noun) rights given to all citizens by the Constitution. (The African American Civil Rights Movement (1955–1968) refers to the political movement in the United States aimed at outlawing racial discrimination against African Americans and restoring the right to vote (suffrage) in the Southern states).

jazz: (noun) a form of music with strong, complex rhythms that started with African Americans in the late 1800s. Jazz musicians often add notes or make up parts as they play.

saxophone: (noun) a type of musical instrument that is in the woodwind family. A saxophone has a single reed, finger keys, and is typically gold colored. (During his lifetime, Coltrane played the tenor, alto, and soprano saxophone.)

quartet: (noun) a musical group consisting of four people either singing or playing musical instruments.

spiritual: (adjective) of a religious nature.

inspire: (verb) to make people excited about something.

Lesson 1 - John Coltrane: An Introduction

Reading Selection

North Carolina is the birthplace of some of the greatest musicians in American history. One such North Carolina musician, *jazzman* John Coltrane (1926–1967), was known and loved around the world. He died over forty years ago, but his music is still heard in movies, on TV, and on the radio. There is a U.S. postal service stamp with his picture on it, and there's even a church in California named after him.

John Coltrane lived during a period of change in America. He grew up in the 1930s in High Point, North Carolina, where he lived under *segregation* during the *Great Depression*. He served in *World War II* in the mid 1940s. He became a famous musician during the *Civil Rights Movement* of the 1950s and 1960s.

Coltrane is famous for playing the *saxophone*. He started playing it in high school. After graduation, he moved to the North, and playing the saxophone became Coltrane's career. From the mid-1940s through the 1950s, he played with big bands and small ones, performing in night clubs, ballrooms, and concert halls around the country, including in Winston-Salem in 1949, '50 and '52. When he was not on stage, he practiced. Coltrane was rarely without his instrument.

After playing the saxophone in a variety of bands that were led by some of the biggest names in jazz, Coltrane formed his own jazz *quartet* in 1960. Coltrane and his quartet liked to experiment with all kinds of musical sounds. Some were soft, slow, and beautiful, while others were loud, fast, and shocking. His group recorded many popular records, including "My Favorite Things" (1960) and "A Love Supreme" (1964).

Coltrane liked to learn about music that sounded new and different. He studied music from around the world, especially India, and also from other countries. All the different kinds of sounds he heard influenced him when he wrote his own music.

- 6 Coltrane believed his music expressed what was in his mind and heart. Gentle, thoughtful, and religious, Coltrane tried to be the best person he could be. He once said, "My music is the *spiritual* expression of what I am—my faith, my knowledge, my being" (Porter, p. 232).

Coltrane cared about other people and wanted to help them through his music. He once wrote: "I want to uplift people...to *inspire* them to...live meaningful lives" (Anderson web site). He once told an interviewer, "I feel I want to be a force for good" (Porter, p. 292). It is not surprising that Coltrane was well liked by those who knew him.

In these lessons, you will learn more about John Coltrane. You will learn about his life growing up in High Point. You will also learn about one of his most famous songs. These lessons will help you better understand an inspiring and influential American and North Carolinian—jazz great John Coltrane.

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Select the best answer from the choices given. Be prepared to share evidence from the reading selection about why you think your answer is the best one.

- 1 What is the main idea of this selection?
 - A North Carolinian John Coltrane is a great American jazz musician.
 - B John Coltrane grew up under segregation in High Point.
 - C John Coltrane lived during a period of change in America.
 - D John Coltrane influenced the history of blues music in the United States.

- 2 According to the selection, Coltrane grew up in High Point under segregation. What can you assume was true for Coltrane as a boy?
 - A He went to school with whites.
 - B He lived in the same neighborhood as white people.
 - C He sat separately from white people in public places.
 - D He could only play music in church.

- 3 What is the *most likely* reason the author includes the information that Coltrane grew up under segregation during the Great Depression?
 - A to show that events in American history effected young Coltrane
 - B to show the reader that segregation did not bother Coltrane
 - C to explain what Coltrane’s family life was like during the Great Depression
 - D to explain why young Coltrane learned to play the saxophone

- 4 What did John Coltrane do to become a great musician?
 - A He practiced all the time.
 - B He played in festivals all over the country.
 - C He grew up in segregated North Carolina.
 - D He volunteered to help people.

- 5 What evidence in this selection suggests that Coltrane was influenced by many different styles of music?
 - A His music was fast and loud.
 - B He studied music from India.
 - C His music was soft and beautiful.
 - D He expressed what was in his heart.

- 6 According to the second to last paragraph, what was the *most likely* reason people liked John Coltrane?
 - A He was smart.
 - B He was talented.
 - C He was helpful.
 - D He was famous.

- 7 In paragraph 6, what does the information in parentheses indicate?
 - A Someone named Porter loves the spiritual side of John Coltrane.
 - B The quote before it was made up by someone who likes music history.
 - C The quote before it is on page 232 in a book written by Porter.
 - D Someone named Porter admires John Coltrane’s music on page 232.

Lesson 1 - John Coltrane: An Introduction

Multiple Choice Questions

Optional Questions:

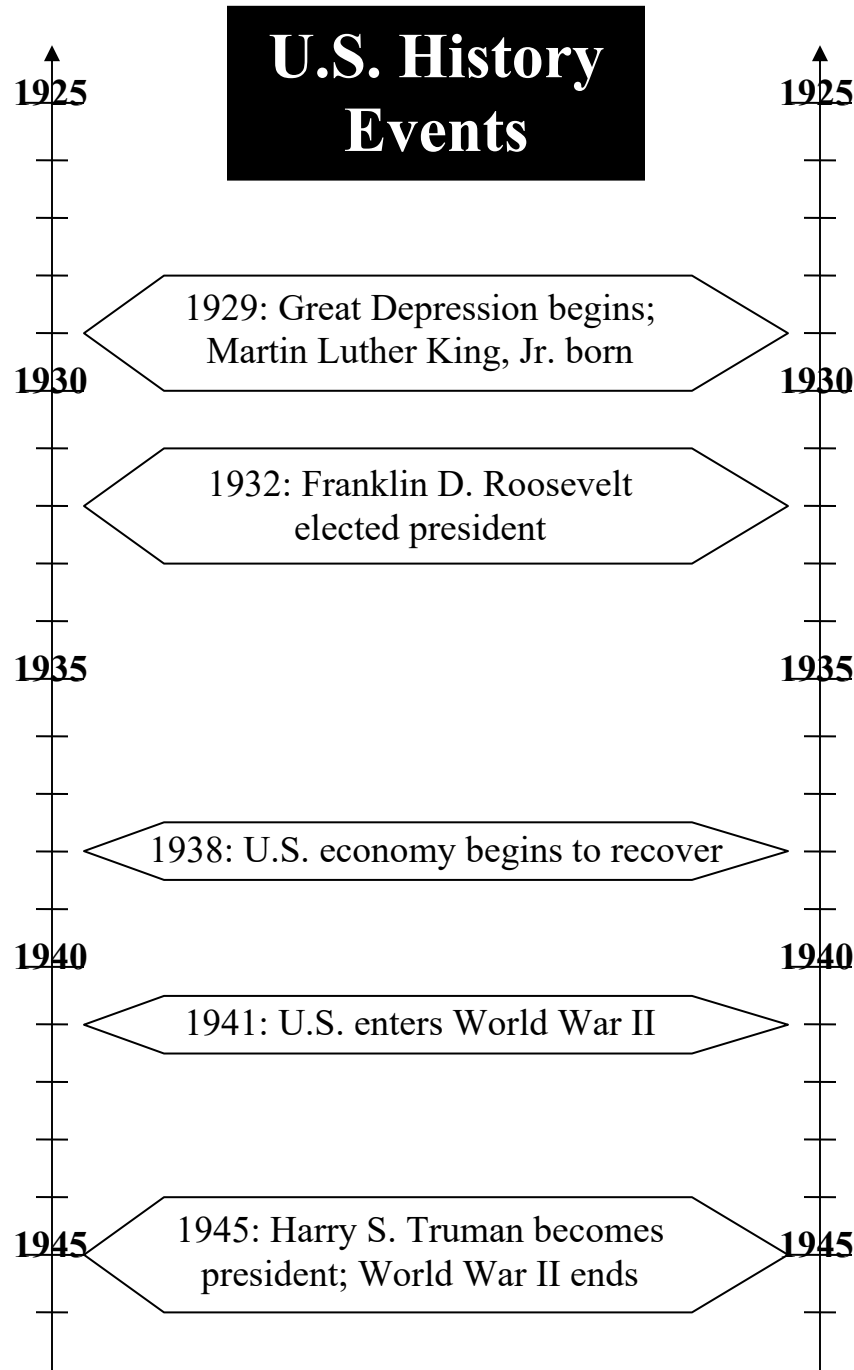
Directions: Select the best answer from the choices given. Be prepared to share evidence from the reading selection about why you think your answer is the best one.

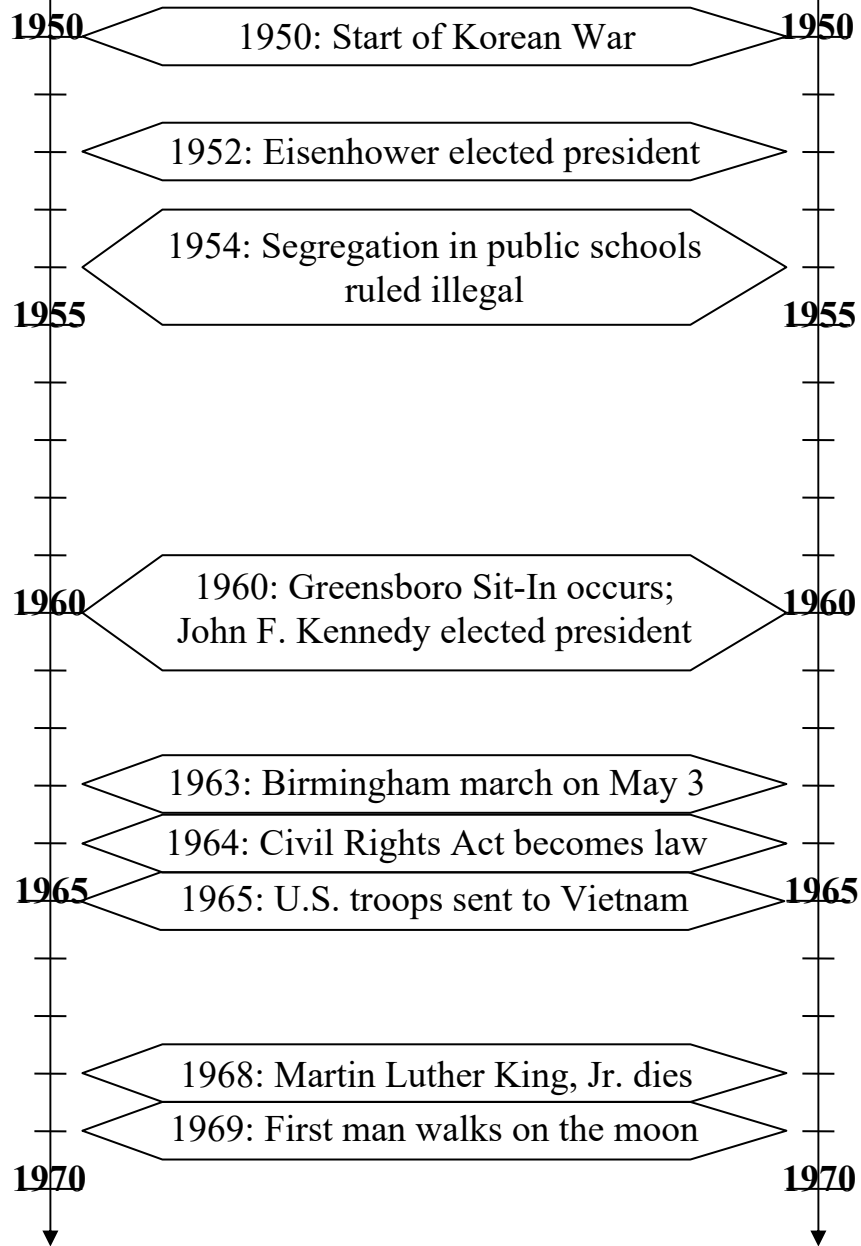
- 8 What is the author’s purpose in writing this passage?
- A to give the reader an overview of John Coltrane’s life and career
 - B to give the reader a low opinion of John Coltrane
 - C to describe John Coltrane’s childhood in High Point, North Carolina
 - D to tell the reader everything about John Coltrane
- 9 According to this selection, which of the following is true?
- A North Carolina has excellent jazz education programs.
 - B Few jazz musicians come from North Carolina.
 - C Some of America’s greatest musicians come from North Carolina.
 - D North Carolina does not honor musicians with postal stamps.
- 10 Which of the following statements is correct?
- A The Great Depression began in the mid 1940s.
 - B John Coltrane served in World War II in the 1950s.
 - C The Civil Rights Movement happened during the 1950s and '60s.
 - D John Coltrane grew up in High Point, North Carolina, in the 1950s.
- 11 What words best describes Coltrane’s music?
- A soft, slow, and beautiful
 - B loud, fast, and shocking
 - C a large variety of sounds
 - D would lull babies to sleep
- 12 When the selection states in paragraph 6 that “music expressed what was in his mind and heart,” what does the reader learn about Coltrane?
- A that his music released his anger and hate
 - B that his music expressed his thoughts and feelings
 - C that Coltrane’s music was romantic
 - D that Coltrane’s music had nothing to do with his feelings

Timeline

John Coltrane

"5" Royales





Lesson 2 - John Coltrane: Early Years, Parts I and II

Vocabulary List

From Part I:

Piedmont: (noun) the area west of the North Carolina Coastal Plains. The Piedmont region is a wide plateau, or flat land, that rises above the land around it. This region includes rolling hills and low mountains.

segregation: (noun) the practice of keeping people apart because of their race or culture.

Great Depression: (noun) a period in the United States lasting from 1929 to around 1941 when many people lost their jobs and had little money. The Great Depression was caused by the stock market crash in October 1929.

Navy: (noun) a shortened term referring to the United States Navy (USN). The USN is the sea branch of the United States armed forces. It deals with warfare that happens in large bodies of water, such as lakes, seas, and oceans.

World War II: (noun) a war that began in 1939. In this war, the Allied Powers—Britain, France, and the Soviet Union—fought against Germany, Italy, and Japan. The United States joined the Allied Powers after December 7, 1941. On that day, Japan bombed American ships at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

region: (noun) an area with features that make it different from other areas.

ukulele: (noun) a small guitar with four strings. Like the guitar, it belongs to the string family.

clarinet: (noun) a small musical instrument that belongs to the woodwind family. A clarinet has a wooden reed that attaches to the mouthpiece, a bottom that flares out like a bell, and is usually black in color.

swing: (noun) a type of jazz music that was popular in the 1930s and 1940s. It was dance music performed by big bands. (Swing music has fast tempos and uses many percussion instruments that create supporting rhythms for the brass instruments that are front and center.)

From Part II:

alto horn: (noun) an instrument belonging to the brass family that looks like a smaller, skinnier tuba.

rhythmic: (adjective) describes someone who is good at finding the strong and weak sounds heard throughout a musical piece. (These sounds are referred to as the *rhythm (noun)* of the piece.)

foundation: (noun) the base or ground on which something is built.

Lesson 2 -John Coltrane: The Early Years, Part I

Reading Selection

Early Childhood Years

Although John Coltrane was born in Hamlet in 1927, he grew up in High Point. Both Hamlet and High Point are in North Carolina's **Piedmont** region. Coltrane's grandparents on his mother's side lived in High Point. His grandfather, the *Reverend* W.W. Blair, was an important man in the community. John and his parents lived with his grandparents. Most of the time, his cousin Mary and her parents also lived with them.

Coltrane was well liked by his classmates and teachers. He was shy, quiet, and well mannered. With his friends, he enjoyed reading comics and car magazines, playing football and baseball, and going to the movies. At school, he paid attention in class and handed in good work. In fifth grade, he created an excellent "Negro

- 3 Although in many ways Coltrane had a happy childhood growing up in High Point, one thing bothered him in particular—*segregation*. Coltrane's school was for African American students only. It had used text books and football uniforms, hand-me-downs from the white school. As his cousin Mary remembers, "Every time he opened a book and it said [that it was] from the white school, that just got to him" (Kahn, p. 7).
- 4 The Great Depression was another fact of life for Coltrane growing up during the 1930s. Many people around the country and in North Carolina were out of work. But fortunately for Coltrane, his family did not experience economic hardship during this time.

Early Musical Experiences

- 5 Music filled the Coltrane home. Coltrane's father, a tailor, played the *ukulele*, violin, and *clarinet*. His mother was a trained singer and pianist who performed at their church. According to Coltrane, "My family was passionate about music" (Porter, p. 26).
- 6 The Coltrane family often listened to music on the radio. According to Coltrane's cousin Mary, "We had a big radio in the living room that stayed on all the time. We listened to everything... everybody, you name it" (Porter, p. 26).
- 7 There was also a lot of music at Coltrane's elementary school. The day began with music. One of Coltrane's classmates remembers, "Every morning...we would have an assembly [with] assembly songs—spirituals, hymns, all kinds of songs... And then the music teacher would play a march and everybody would march to their rooms" (Porter, p.27).

In the late 1930s, when John was about twelve, he and his cousin Mary would go see *swing* bands. These big bands had some of the most famous jazz musicians in the country performing in them. The bands performed at a local park that had a dance floor, as well as at a local hotel and theater. John and Mary would sit in the upper balcony, the only place African Americans were allowed.

Reading Selection

Tragedy

- 1 When Coltrane was in 7th grade, he suffered a series of life-changing losses. Within five months, his grandfather, father, and grandmother all died. His uncle, Mary's father, died about a year later. The now much smaller family went from middle class to poor. They rented rooms in their house. His mother and aunt went to work at the local country club.

Making Music in Middle and High School

Around this time, when Coltrane turned thirteen, he began to play music. He joined his first band, a new community band led by his Boy Scout troop leader. The band had a lot of his friends in it. Coltrane started on *alto horn* and then moved to clarinet.

At William Penn High School, Coltrane was one of the first members of the school's newly formed band. He started to play the saxophone at this time. He was a quick learner on his new instrument. Before long, Coltrane became known as *the* musician in the high school band. His senior year, he was voted "Most Musical" in the senior class. His music teacher, Grayce Yokely, remembers, "He showed great interest in wanting to get everything just right. He was a very *rhythmic* fellow, and he paid attention" (Porter, p. 30).

Coltrane practiced constantly. According to classmate Rosetta Haywood, "He kept the saxophone with him all the time... You could hear him all the time [after school], from any part of the building" (Porter, p. 33). Coltrane's cousin Mary remembers him practicing at home, "He would sit at that dining room table and practice all the time" (Porter, p. 33).

After High School

Graduation from William Penn High School in 1943 marked the beginning of a new life for Coltrane. He left High Point to join his mother, aunt, and his cousin Mary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They had left the South earlier that year for higher paying jobs in the North. In 1945, Coltrane joined the *Navy* to fight in *World War II*. Not surprisingly, he was assigned the job of playing in the Navy band.

Coltrane's years growing up in High Point had prepared him well. Growing up in a musical family, hearing many types of music during his childhood, and playing in the community and school bands provided him a rich musical *foundation*. In the next twenty years, John Coltrane would build on this foundation to become one of the greatest jazz musicians of all time.

Lesson 2 - John Coltrane: Early Years, Part I

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Select the best answer from the choices given. Be prepared to share evidence from the reading selection about why you think your answer is the best one.

- 1 The first paragraph says that Hamlet and High Point are both in the “Piedmont region” of North Carolina. What does “Piedmont region” mean?
 - A the Blue Ridge Mountain area
 - B the town where Coltrane was born
 - C the North Carolina coastal area
 - D the central area of North Carolina

- 2 Paragraph 3 quotes Coltrane’s cousin Mary as saying, “Every time he opened a book and it said that it was from the white school, that just got to him.” What does “that just got to him” mean?
 - A Coltrane had a stomach ache.
 - B Coltrane wanted to buy a new book.
 - C Coltrane felt upset and angry.
 - D Coltrane was happy he received a book.

- 3 According to paragraph 4, what *most likely* is true?
 - A The Coltrane family lost their house during the Great Depression.
 - B Most whites in North Carolina were rich during the Great Depression.
 - C Coltrane’s family had enough food and clothes during the Great Depression.
 - D Coltrane worked two jobs after school during the Great Depression.

- 4 What evidence supports Coltrane’s statement in paragraph 5, “My family was passionate about music.”
 - A His family loved the movie *The Sound of Music*.
 - B His mother and father played instruments.
 - C His grandfather was an important minister.
 - D He loved listening to radio music with his cousin Mary.

- 5 Why did Coltrane and cousin Mary sit in the upper balcony when they watched swing bands touring through High Point in the 1930s?
 - A because they wanted a better view
 - B because they were allowed anywhere in the theater
 - C because they were not allowed anywhere else in the theater
 - D because they wanted to separate from their parents

Lesson 2 - John Coltrane: The Early Years, Part I

Multiple Choice Questions

Optional Questions:

Directions: Select the best answer from the choices given. Be prepared to share evidence from the reading selection about why you think your answer is the best one.

- 6 What does this selection suggest about Coltrane’s family in High Point?
- A They liked to keep to themselves.
 - B They traveled south to find work.
 - C They were well-known and respected.
 - D They moved to Philadelphia to play music.
- 7 What is the main topic in paragraph 3?
- A Coltrane’s school only had African American students.
 - B Coltrane’s textbooks and sports uniforms were hand-me-downs.
 - C Coltrane was deeply upset by segregation during his childhood.
 - D Coltrane had a happy childhood growing up in High Point
- 8 Where did young Coltrane experience music growing up in High Point?
- A home, school, parks, theaters, mall
 - B his neighbors’ house
 - C home, school, parks, theaters, church
 - D popular CDs and TV
- 9 In paragraph 6, Coltrane’s cousin Mary explains that when she and Coltrane listened to the radio, “We listened to everything... everybody, you name it.” This experience likely lead to Coltrane
- A becoming interested in jazz and blues music.
 - B liking gospel music on the radio and during church services.
 - C becoming interested in many music styles and performers.
 - D becoming one of the world’s best trumpet players.
- 10 How did Coltrane and his classmates *probably* feel about the morning school assembly program described in paragraph 7?
- A They felt sad there was no singing.
 - B They enjoyed singing together.
 - C They felt nervous and lonely.
 - D They hated singing and dancing.

Lesson 2 - John Coltrane: Early Years, Part II

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Select the best answer from the choices given. Be prepared to share evidence from the reading selection about why you think your answer is the best one.

- 1 How does the reader know that this selection is an historic biography?
 - A The author describes realistic details in the opening paragraphs.
 - B The people and events seem like they could happen in real life.
 - C The information is about a real person who lived in the past.
 - D The story takes place in the present time in North Carolina.

- 2 The main idea in paragraph 1 is that when Coltrane was in 7th grade, a number of tragedies changed his life. Which detail supports this main idea?
 - A Coltrane’s school did not have new textbooks.
 - B He helped his mother and aunt clean houses.
 - C There were no white students in Coltrane’s class.
 - D His grandfather, father, and grandmother died.

- 3 In this selection, what is the purpose of the underlined subtitles?
 - A to define the words in each section
 - B to let the reader know what each section is about
 - C to make it clear when Coltrane left High Point
 - D to make the reader read more slowly

- 4 Which statement is correct?
 - A Coltrane joined the Navy in World War II during senior year of high school.
 - B Coltrane left High Point before he joined the Navy during World War II.
 - C Coltrane was assigned to the Navy band in 1944 during World War II.
 - D Coltrane joined the Navy during World War II in order to leave North Carolina.

- 5 What is the best summary for “Early Years, Parts I and II”?
 - A Music was the most fun part of Coltrane’s life growing up in High Point.
 - B Coltrane participated in community music programs beginning in the 7th grade.
 - C Coltrane grew up in segregated High Point and had a childhood filled with music.
 - D Coltrane’s parents were musical and encouraged him to learn the saxophone.

Lesson 2 - John Coltrane: The Early Years, Part II

Multiple Choice Questions

Optional Questions:

Directions: Select the best answer from the choices given. Be prepared to share evidence from the reading selection about why you think your answer is the best one.

- 6 According to this selection, which of the following is true?
- A Coltrane’s first instrument was the saxophone.
 - B Coltrane was voted “Most Musical” in his 7th grade class.
 - C Coltrane began playing music about the time his father died.
 - D Coltrane joined his first band in high school.
- 7 What is the *most likely* reason the author writes about Coltrane practicing the saxophone all the time in high school?
- A She wants readers to learn that practice is necessary to improve a skill.
 - B She wants readers to understand why Coltrane graduated from high school.
 - C She wants readers to learn to play in a band beginning in middle school.
 - D She wants readers to know why Coltrane was liked by his class mates.
- 8 What is the *most likely* reason the author gives many details about Coltrane’s musical experiences growing up in High Point?
- A She wants the readers to learn more about Coltrane’s interest in cars and comics.
 - B She wants readers to know that Coltrane’s childhood was filled with music.
 - C She is encouraging readers to pay more attention in school music class.
 - D She does not like the fact that Coltrane attended a segregated music class.

Lesson 3 - John Coltrane: "My Favorite Things"

"My Favorite Things"

Vocabulary List

Civil Rights Movement: (noun) rights given to all citizens by the Constitution. (The African American Civil Rights Movement (1955–1968) refers to the political movement in the United States aimed at outlawing racial discrimination against African Americans and restoring the right to vote (suffrage) in the Southern states).

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: (noun) a minister who became a major leader in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. King organized protests throughout the South and encouraged protestors to use nonviolence in order to reach their goal of securing civil rights for all people. He was killed in Memphis in 1968.

Greensboro Sit-In: (noun) an event taking place on February 1, 1960, in which four African American college students sat at a lunch counter reserved for whites only in a Woolworth's store in downtown Greensboro. The students refused to leave until they were served food; soon, hundreds of other African American students joined them in their protest at the lunch counter. This event is considered to be one of the most important protests during the Civil Rights Movement.

innovative: (adjective) used to describe someone or something that introduces a new idea, way of doing things, or invention.

protest: (verb) to make a statement or gesture to show that one is against something. A *protestor (noun)* is someone who protests.

hit: (noun) a great success.

jukebox(es): (noun) a coin-operated record player that automatically plays songs chosen from a list. These types of music players were especially popular in the 1940s and 1950s.

waltz: (noun) a type of classical music that accompanied the ballroom dance of the same name. Waltzes have a basic beat of one-two-three, one-two-three.

musical: (noun) a form of theatre that combines music, songs, and dances with spoken words. Some famous musicals you may know are: *The Sound of Music, West Side Story, Oklahoma!, Godspell, Beauty and the Beast, The Lion King, and Wicked.*

double bass: (noun) a musical instrument belonging to the string family. It is the largest and lowest-pitched of the string family. Jazz musicians typically play it by plucking at the strings with their fingers.

Indian: (adjective) of or having to do with the country of India. India is located in southwestern Asia.

quartet: (noun) a musical group consisting of four people either singing or playing musical instruments.

Reading Selection

1960 was a big year for John Coltrane. Now living in New York City, he was becoming known in the jazz world as very hard working, *innovative*, and talented. In October of that year, he became even better known with the release of "My Favorite Things."

1960 was a time of change in the United States. Many people in the country joined the *Civil Rights Movement* to protest unfair treatment against African Americans. *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* was the main leader of the movement. The *Greensboro Sit-In* made the news across the country.

"My Favorite Things" was Coltrane's first *hit*. People who normally did not listen to jazz music liked it. People from around the country listened to it on the radio and on *jukeboxes*. Many people went to music stores to buy the record. Over the years, Coltrane's "My Favorite Things" has become one of the best-selling jazz recordings of all time.

Coltrane based "My Favorite Things" on an old-fashioned, *waltz*-like song by the same name from *The Sound of Music*. In 1959, *The Sound of Music* was a new hit *musical* in New York City. Six years later, *The Sound of Music* became a popular movie.

- 5 Coltrane liked to take old songs and turn them into something new and different. "I've found you've got to look back at old things and see them in a new light," he once said (Anderson web site). The "new light" Coltrane shed upon "My Favorite Things" was to make his version much longer and with no words. Also, Coltrane's version had four instruments: saxophone, *double bass*, drums, and piano. The original version was performed by a full orchestra.

In addition, Coltrane added to his version a part that sounded like [East] *Indian* music. These sounds were not typically mixed into a waltz-like piece. After recording "My Favorite Things," he became increasingly interested in Indian music. He also became interested in music from Africa and South America. He liked comparing different kinds of music from around the world and seeing how they were alike and how they were different.

Coltrane loved "My Favorite Things." He once told an interviewer, "[My] Favorite Things" is my favorite piece of all those I have recorded" (Porter, p. 184). Coltrane and his *quartet* performed "My Favorite Things" all the time. They played the song in small night clubs, as well as in concert halls and at outdoor music festivals around the world. According to Elvin Jones, the drummer in the *quartet*, "We played ['My Favorite Things'] every night for five years. We played it every night... like it would be the last time we played it" (Kahn, pp.77-78).

Interestingly, Coltrane father's favorite song was a waltz. When Coltrane was a boy, he listened to his father play this waltz on the ukulele for friends and family. According to a childhood friend of Coltrane's, "John always said he wanted to play like his father. He liked his father's song because it was a waltz..." (Thomas, p. 8).

Lesson 3 - John Coltrane: "My Favorite Things"

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Select the best answer from the choices given. Be prepared to share evidence from the reading selection about why you think your answer is the best one.

- 1 The selection states that Coltrane became known as an "innovative" musician. This means that he
 - A played music in the style it was played in the past.
 - B played music in new and inventive ways.
 - C played music he had heard on the radio.
 - D played music that he remembered from childhood.

- 2 Which statement is true?
 - A Coltrane moved to High Point in 1960.
 - B Coltrane was very famous before 1960.
 - C Coltrane became famous during the Civil Rights Movement.
 - D Coltrane was unknown in the jazz world until "My Favorite Things."

- 3 The Greensboro Sit-In was an important event of the Civil Rights Movement. What evidence *best* indicates that this is a fact rather than an opinion?
 - A Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement.
 - B Coltrane wrote "My Favorite Things" the same year as the Greensboro Sit-In.
 - C The Civil Rights Museum is a popular place in downtown Greensboro.
 - D Stories about the Greensboro Sit-In were in newspapers around the country.

- 4 Who do you think is *most likely* to enjoy John Coltrane's "My Favorite Things"?
 - A People who do not like jazz music
 - B Musicians from North Carolina
 - C People who like all kinds of music
 - D Musicians who like American opera

- 5 Paragraph 5 quotes Coltrane as saying, "I've found you've got to look back at old things and see them in a new light." Based on this, which statement is *most likely* true?
 - A Coltrane liked to look at old instruments in new light.
 - B Coltrane enjoyed creating a new version of "My Favorite Things."
 - C Coltrane disliked jazz and blues music from the 1930s and 1940s.
 - D Coltrane was most interested in old Broadway show tunes.

Lesson 3 - John Coltrane: "My Favorite Things"

Multiple Choice Questions- Teacher's Answer Key

Optional Questions:

Directions: Select the best answer from the choices given. Be prepared to share evidence from the reading selection about why you think your answer is the best one.

- 6 What evidence supports the opinion that Coltrane's version of "My Favorite Things" sounded more "innovative" than the Broadway musical version?
- A Coltrane's version had a section that sounded like music from India.
 - B Coltrane's version had new words that were stranger than the original.
 - C The Broadway musical version was popular with jazz fans in New York City.
 - D The Broadway version had four instruments that were played on stage.
- 7 What is the *most likely* reason the author includes the information in the last paragraph?
- A She wants readers to know that the original "My Favorite Things" was a waltz.
 - B She thinks it is important that Coltrane's father played the ukulele.
 - C She is suggesting that Coltrane's father probably influenced his son musically.
 - D She believes that waltzes are old-fashioned music that parents like.

Lesson 4: "5" Royales: An Introduction

Vocabulary List

Civil Rights Act of 1964: (noun) a law passed by the U.S. Congress in 1964 stating that all Americans have the right to use public places and services. It also says that people cannot refuse to hire people because of their race, religion, gender, or place of birth.

segregation: (noun) the practice of keeping people apart because of their race or culture.

pioneering: (adjective) being among the earliest, original, or first.

rhythm and blues (R&B): (noun) popular music typically including elements of blues and African American folk music and marked by a strong beat and simple chord structure.

vocal: (adjective) relating to, arranged for, or sung by the human voice.

innovative: (adjective) used to describe someone or something that introduces a new idea, method, or device.

soul: (noun) music that originated in African American gospel singing, soul music is closely related to rhythm and blues and is sung with strong feeling and a down-to-earth attitude.

down-to-earth: (adjective) down-home, not fancy.

gospel: (noun) a type of music that is written to sing about spiritual beliefs in Christianity.

rooted: (adjective) has its origins in.

secular: (adjective) non-religious.

gig(s): (noun- slang) job held for a certain amount of time; typically refers to an entertainer's job.

chitlins': (noun) the small intestines of a pig eaten as food, typically by African Americans in the South.

circuit: (noun) theaters, nightclubs, etc., performed in by entertainers.

service station: (noun) gas station.

"Tearin' the house up": (slang expression) The "house" refers to the audience. This expression means that the audience really liked the "5" Royales' show.

Reading Selection

The "5" Royales were a *pioneering rhythm and blues (R&B) vocal* group from Winston-Salem. They were one of the most talented and *innovative* groups of their time. During the "5" Royales' career from 1952 to 1965, they recorded more than one hundred songs and five top-ten R&B hits. At least two of the group's songs have become American classics—"Dedicated to the One I Love" and "Think."

The "5" Royales had a big influence on famous *soul* and rock and roll stars of the 1960s and '70s. "5" Royales' guitarist, Lowman Pauling (1926-1973), often wore a long strap and played the guitar at knee-level. His creative, original playing style influenced rock superstar Eric Clapton and soul guitarist Steve Cropper. The "5" Royales' lead singer, John Tanner (1926 – 2005), sang with strong feeling in a *down-to-earth, gospel* singing style. The "5" Royales' singing style had a big influence on later music greats, such as James Brown, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, and Michael Jackson.

The "5" Royales' sound was *rooted* in Southern African American church music. The group began as a gospel vocal group in the late 1930s called the Royal Sons. In 1951, the Royal Sons sent a tape to a record company in New York. By 1952, they signed with the record company and changed their name to the "5" Royales. The "5" Royales started singing non-religious, or *secular*, songs. Their style of singing, though, stayed the same as when the group members sang in church growing up as children in Winston-Salem.

The "5" Royales performed mostly for African American audiences. Many of the other successful African American vocal groups of the 1950s and '60s also performed for white audiences. The "5" Royales drove all over the country and performed mostly one-night *gigs* on the "*Chitlin' Circuit*." The "*Chitlin' Circuit*" consisted of theaters, clubs, dance halls, and other places where African Americans went for entertainment and dancing. The "*Chitlin' Circuit*" developed in response to *segregation* in the South that did not allow African Americans to go to clubs and dance halls owned and operated by whites.

Before the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, members of the "5" Royales often were not allowed into the same public places, such as hotels, restaurants, and gas stations, as whites. Lead singer, John Tanner, remembered those days of *segregation*: "It was real rough. We had to go around to the back and get the food; when we'd stop at a *service station* we couldn't use the bathroom, you know. And, it was tough. But, we made it" (Carolina Music Ways interview, p. 13).

Although the "5" Royales had a lot of fans, not everyone liked their music. A number of adults, both white and black, thought R&B music was not proper. It was similar to how some parents today do not approve of rap or hip-hop. Some white parents had racist attitudes and did not like their children listening to African American music. Some African American parents did not like R&B because they thought it was not religious.

Lead singer John Tanner remembered how his parents viewed the "5" Royales' R&B music, "My dad came out [one time when] we played...You know, my mom and dad, they didn't go for it...because we were brought up in church, and they didn't want us [singing R&B]...But, after he came and saw that we were *tearin' the house up*, he was proud!" (Carolina Music Ways interview, p.5)

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Select the best answer from the choices given. Be prepared to share evidence from the reading selection about why you think your answer is the best one.

- 1 Why did the author describe the "5" Royales as a "pioneering" group?
 - A The group was among the first to sing gospel outside a church building.
 - B The group was among the first to perform rhythm and blues outside the U.S.
 - C The group was among the first to sing secular music in a gospel style.
 - D The group was among the first to perform in an American music video.

- 2 What evidence can you find that the author's purpose is to inform the reader?
 - A The author described the "5" Royales using facts and quotes from history.
 - B The author imagined a fun story and told it using events that did not happen.
 - C The author included a vocabulary list to help the reader understand the reading.
 - D The author described how she felt about the "5" Royales using descriptive words.

- 3 According to this selection, what characteristic was used to segregate people and keep them apart in public areas?
 - A People were divided into groups according to singing ability.
 - B People were divided into groups by the kind of music they liked.
 - C People were segregated into groups by race.
 - D People were segregated by religious beliefs.

- 4 What connection do many students in Winston-Salem have to the "5" Royales?
 - A Both grew up in Winston-Salem.
 - B Neither liked gospel music.
 - C They were both influenced by Stevie Wonder.
 - D They were both rap and hip hop music fans.

- 5 When the author wrote that the "5" Royales were "tearin' the house up," what did she really mean?
 - A The members of the group were using tools to take the walls apart.
 - B The members of the group were singing so loudly the walls collapsed.
 - C The audience really liked the show.
 - D The audience left before the show ended.

- 6 What evidence in the selection suggests that the "5" Royales "had a big influence on famous soul and rock and roll stars"?
 - A Guitarist Lowman Pauling's guitar playing style influenced Eric Clapton.
 - B Michael Jackson was influenced by Lowman Pauling's guitar playing style.
 - C Soul great Steve Cropper modeled his singing on John Tanner's gospel style.
 - D Stevie Wonder influenced the down-to-earth singing style of John Tanner.

- 7 In the days of segregation before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the "5" Royales
 - A could sit and eat in any restaurant or picnic area in the country.
 - B could use public bathrooms in all restaurants and gas stations.
 - C would go around the back of many restaurants to get their food.
 - D would stay in the same hotels as white people while on tour.

Vocabulary List

Civil Rights Movement: (noun) rights given to all citizens by the Constitution. (The African American Civil Rights Movement (1955–1968) refers to the political movement in the United States aimed at outlawing racial discrimination against African Americans and restoring the right to vote (suffrage) in the Southern states).

Greensboro Sit-In: (noun) an event taking place on February 1, 1960, in which four African American college students sat a lunch counter reserved for whites only in a Woolworth's store in downtown Greensboro. The students refused to leave until they were served food; soon, hundreds of other African American students joined them in their protest at the lunch counter. This event is considered to be one of the most important protests during the Civil Rights Movement.

segregation: (noun) the practice of keeping people apart because of their race or culture.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: (noun) a minister who became a major leader in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. King organized protests throughout the South, and encouraged protestors to use nonviolence in order to reach their goal of securing civil rights for all. He was killed in Memphis in 1968.

Civil Rights Act of 1964: (noun) a law passed by the U.S. Congress in 1964 stating that all Americans have the right to use public places and services. It also says that people cannot refuse to hire people because of their race, religion, gender, or place of birth.

President John F. Kennedy: (noun) the 35th President of the United States; Kennedy's term lasted from 1961-1963. Kennedy is best known for stopping the Cuban Missile Crisis and for supporting the Civil Rights Movement. He was killed in 1963.

President Lyndon Johnson: (noun) the 36th President of the United States. Johnson was Vice-President under Kennedy and became President when Kennedy was assassinated.

protest: (verb) to make a statement or gesture to show that one is against something. A *protestor* (noun) is someone who protests.

corner: (verb) to force someone or something into a place where they are trapped and they cannot get out.

gig: (noun-slang) job held for a certain amount of time; typically refers to an entertainer's job.

processed hair: (noun) hair that has been made stiff and straight chemically by way of a hair lotion called relaxer.

billy stick (also called a billy club or baton): (noun) a heavy wooden stick typically carried by police officers to defend themselves from criminals or to break up fights.

detain: (verb) to hold or keep in the control of an authority, such as the police.

Reading Selection

- 1 **Historical Background:** May 3rd, 1963 was an important day in the history of the **Civil Rights Movement**. It was three years after the **Greensboro Sit-In**. A march was scheduled in Birmingham, Alabama, to *protest segregation* in the city. Because many of the marchers were students ages eight to twenty-one, the march is often called the "Children's Crusade."
- 2 As the marchers moved across the city streets toward downtown, police warned them to stop. When the marchers continued, the chief of police, Bull Connor, ordered the city's fire hoses to be turned on the *protesters*. The water was so strong it could peel bark from a tree. The water ripped off shirts and pushed people over. The police chief also ordered police to use German Shepherd dogs to keep the marchers from leaving the scene.
- 3 That evening in Birmingham, **Martin Luther King, Jr.** tried to calm worried parents. He told them, "Don't worry about your children who are in jail. The eyes of the world are on Birmingham. We're going on in spite of dogs and fire hoses" ("Nation: Dogs, Kids & Clubs," TIME).
- 4 The next day, newspapers and TV showed photos of the police turning hoses and dogs on the protesters. Many people who saw these photos were very angry. *President John F. Kennedy* took action to bring about change. A year later, *President Lyndon Johnson* signed the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** into law. It became illegal all over the country to have **segregation** in public areas and the workplace.

The "5" Royales Were There: (Lead singer John Tanner tells this story in an interview with Carolina Music Ways in 1999.)

"We had some terrible times. I remember, we went through Birmingham, Alabama, the day that they had these water hoses and dogs; [the police were] putting them on these people, they were *cornering* them...They were cornering them coming through, you know, we just knew that [it was] the sit-ins or walk-ins or whatever it was.

We were on our way to Jasper, Texas. That's right outta Houston. And, we were on our way out there for a *gig*. And we went through Birmingham that Saturday. It was on a Saturday. And, we were wearing *processed hair* then.

- 7 And, [we] had New York tags on our car...New York tags and six big black boys sitting up in the car...We got hit in the window with this *billy stick*. 'Where are you guys goin'?' [the police asked us]. And we said, 'We're tryin' to go to work! We're on our way.' And they said, 'No, you're not!' And they *detained* us, man, about two hours around there!

And [what was] sadder was that they were shooting the water hoses at people. You know, they had them [guns], police dogs, and all that stuff. Now, we went through Birmingham the same day, and we missed a *gig*, man. But we were on our way out West; we didn't come back that way until all that stuff was over."

Lesson 4 -"5" Royales:Birmingham, Alabama, 1963

Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Select the best answer from the choices given. Be prepared to share evidence from the reading selection about why you think your answer is the best one.

From "Historical Background"

- 1 From the author's description in paragraph 1, what word *best* describes the mood in Birmingham, Alabama, on May 3rd, 1963?
 - A relaxed
 - B tense
 - C funny
 - D sad

- 2 Which statement is *most likely* true?
 - A The marchers ended segregation.
 - B The marchers were in danger.
 - C Police Chief Bull Connor wanted to end segregation.
 - D German shepherd dogs were useful to the marchers.

- 3 When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. told parents of the children who were in the march, "The eyes of the world are on Birmingham", what did he *probably* mean?
 - A There were many people looking at TV in the city of Birmingham.
 - B People in Africa and Asia were hearing about the march on the radio.
 - C People around the world were seeing photos on TV of the march.
 - D The march would end because very few people were watching it.

- 4 After President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964:
 - A it was illegal for restaurants to turn away African American customers.
 - B African Americans and whites could not sit in the same part of the bus.
 - C private clubs had to admit people of all races.
 - D segregation was legal in public picnic areas.

Lesson 4 - "5" Royales: Birmingham, Alabama, 1963

Multiple Choice Questions

From "The '5' Royales Were There"

- 5 Why do you think the author *most likely* put the "Historical Background" section before the "The '5' Royales Were There" section?
- A She thought readers would better understand Tanner's musical career in Alabama.
 - B She thought readers would like to know that John Tanner met Bull Conner.
 - C She wanted readers to view Tanner's experience as part of American history.
 - D She wanted readers to know about John Tanner before reading about Dr. King.
- 6 Paragraph 3 quotes John Tanner as saying, "And, [we] had New York tags on our car... New York tags and six big black boys sitting up in the car." What *most likely* was John Tanner thinking at the time?
- A The police will like that we are from New York.
 - B I am scared that the police will stop us.
 - C I think the police will let us continue driving.
 - D The police think we are younger than we are.
- 7 How is John Tanner's description of May 3rd, 1963 in Birmingham, Alabama, *different* from the description the author gives in the "Historical Background" section?
- A Tanner's description refers to more historical terms.
 - B Tanner's description is more personal.
 - C Tanner's description talks about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - D Tanner's description mentions police dogs.
- 8 How can interviews help students understand history?
- A They are short and easier for students to read and write about.
 - B They give facts and no opinions.
 - C They connect readers to real people who lived at the time.
 - D They are always completely true.

Lesson 5 - "'5' Royales: Growing up in Winston-Salem"

Vocabulary List-

roots: (noun) the origin or background of someone or something.

pioneer: (noun) a person or group that helps open up a new way of thought or activity.

quartet: (noun) a musical group consisting of four people either singing or playing musical instruments.

spiritual: (noun) a religious song that is usually deeply emotional that was developed especially among African Americans in the southern United States.

sling: (verb) to cause to move with a sudden and usually sweeping or swirling motion.

Lesson 5 - "5" Royales: Growing up in Winston-Salem

Reading Selection

(From a Carolina Music Ways'1999 interview with "5" Royales lead singer John Tanner (JT))

Interviewer: "Mr. Tanner, I wanted to ask you some questions about your *roots* in Winston-Salem... [Let's] start with your childhood growing up in Winston-Salem."

JT: "I came up in a Pentecostal church. And, Mom and Dad just carried us to Sunday school on Sunday morning, and sometimes we wouldn't get home until 9 or 10 o'clock at night. And that's all I knew! ... My father was a *pioneer* of gospel. He was one of the first blacks that had a radio program in Winston-Salem. There were only two radio stations back then, WSJS and WAIR... And my father was singing on WAIR."

Interviewer: "And what was his name?"

JT: "His name was Eugene Tanner. And he used to come on every Saturday evening at 4:30, and his song was 'Be In Time Sinner', that was his theme song. ... Everybody in the black neighborhood knew him... And I had five [younger] brothers, and I had four of them that sang *quartet spirituals*. ... They had a group called the Tanner Family. And my father used to carry them everywhere singing. And I didn't ever sing with them."

Interviewer: "So your father and four brothers were singing gospel with the Tanner Family, and you...?"

JT: "I was with the Royal Sons. We were in school together, and we used to get on the street corners, singing...strictly gospel...We was nothin' but teenagers, kids."

Interviewer: "[You sang] downtown on the street corners?"

JT: "No, in our neighborhood...Glenn Avenue and Derry Street. And, we used to get on the corner, walking up and down the street. [Lowman] Pauling, he was always a good guitar player. He had a guitar larger than he was, and he'd *sling* it across his shoulder, and we'd walk the streets singing. We just got a thrill out of singing...and we used to travel a little, you know, like West Virginia."

Interviewer: "How old were you when you joined the Royal Sons?"

JT: "Ummm, I guess ... I was 16 years old...And all the rest of the guys, we were young right there together... there was just four of us: Clarence [Pauling], Lowman [Pauling], William Samuels, and myself."

Interviewer: "Now, back in those days ...in addition to what you would hear on the radio and church, were there live shows [touring through Winston-Salem]?"

JT: "Well... when [the Royal Sons] started singing...we'd invite different popular [gospel] groups [from other places]... And, we used to invite the Dixie Hummingbirds. One time we had Sam Cooke and the Soul Stirrers. We invited the Caravans, one time. That was before Shirley Caesar joined [them]... [The groups] would perform downtown at a place in town called Pythian Hall...[and they'd also perform] at the Kimberley Park School auditorium."

Lesson 5: "5" Royales: "Dedicated to The One I Love" (OPTIONAL)

Vocabulary List

Billboard Charts rank each week the most popular songs in the United States #1 through #100. The results are published in [*Billboard*](#) magazine.

rousing: (*adjective*) causing excitement.

groundbreaking: (*adjective*) used to describe someone or something that introduces something new, such as a new way of performing.

harmony: (*noun*) any combination of musical notes sounded at the same time.

soul: (*noun*) music that originated in African American gospel singing, is closely related to rhythm and blues, and is characterized by intensity of feeling and a down-to-earth attitude.

reggae: (*noun*) popular form of Jamaican music that combines native styles with rock and soul music.

Lesson 5 - "5" Royales: "Dedicated to the One I Love" (OPTIONAL)

Reading Selection

SONG LYRICS:

This is dedicated to the one I love.

While I'm away from you, my baby,
I know it's hard for you, my baby,
Because it's hard for me, my baby,
But the darkest hour is just before day.

CHORUS:

Each night before you go to bed, my baby,
Whisper a little prayer for me, my baby.
And let's tell all those stars above
That this is dedicated to the one I love.

Life can never be exactly
Like we want it to be.
But I can be satisfied
Just knowing you love me.

But there's one thing I want
You to do especially for me.
And it's something that everybody needs.
[Repeat CHORUS 2x]

This is dedicated to the one I love.

Background Information on Song:

"Dedicated to the One I Love" is probably the most well-known song written by the "5" Royales. Over the years, a variety of performers have made it famous.

The "5" Royales released the song in 1957. It did not make it to the *Billboard Charts* until 1961, when it made it to # 81. Eugene Tanner, Jr., John Tanner's brother, sang the lead vocals. Backing them up is Lowman Pauling's *rousing* guitar playing. Pauling wrote the song with Ralph Bass, a record producer. According to Pauling's wife, Pauling wrote the song for her at their home in Winston-Salem on one of his short breaks from touring. The song is about being away from someone you love.

Four years later, the Shirelles version reached *Billboard Charts* #3. The Shirelles were a *groundbreaking*, female, African American *harmony* singing group. Their version sounded smoother. The guitar playing was replaced by their melodic voices.

Over the following four decades, performers continued to record "Dedicated to the One I Love." In 1967, the Mamas & the Papas released their version. It reached #2 on the *Billboard Charts*. In the 1970s, the Temprees released a *soul* version. In the 1980s, Bernadette Peters released the song. In the 1990s, Bitty McLean put her own *reggae* style on the song, and Linda Ronstadt made it the title song of her album.



Date:

Dear Parents,

Your child recently finished a unit on great North Carolina musicians—jazz legend **John Coltrane** and rhythm and blues pioneers the “**5**” **Royales**. The unit focused on the lives of these legendary musicians and the times in which they lived.

Thanks to funding provided by the **Stokes County Council**, your child has seen or will see *Carolina Live!—Our Musical History*. This live show features songs made famous by John Coltrane and the “5” Royales, as well as other North Carolina music greats.

Carolina Music Ways, a nonprofit organization based in Winston-Salem, and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools created this show and related unit, which are both aligned with state and national standards. We are pleased to bring the program to Stokes County.

We hope that learning about our state’s great musical history will inspire your child to further pursue music. As a North Carolinian, he/she will be following in the footsteps of some of the world’s finest musicians.

For more information about North Carolina’s music, please visit **www.carolinamusicways.org**. Visit to the “Explore” section to dig deeper into North Carolina musical history, styles, and icons. There’s also information on music festivals where you and your child can hear North Carolina’s awesome music.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Carlson

Elizabeth Carlson, Director
Education and Grants
Carolina Music Ways

Jazz Overview

Jazz is one of the only art forms that originated in America. Jazz emerged in New Orleans in the early 1900s, and soon became popular throughout the Southern United States. Eventually, jazz's popularity became widespread throughout the country.

Music Style and Instruments

Jazz uses improvisation, in which the musicians (or musician) create new music as they are performing. This technique gives jazz an exciting, flashy feel. Jazz utilizes brass instruments (such as the trumpet, the cornet, and the slide trombone), wind instruments (such as the clarinet and the saxophone), drums, guitars, pianos, and upright basses.

Jazz Roots

Jazz was inspired by African-American music styles of the 1800s, including field hollers, blues, spirituals, and ragtime. These styles converged in New Orleans in the early 1900s. The black musical forms combined with the classical European music played by Creoles (New Orleans residents of French and African origin) to create jazz. Brass bands of self-taught African-American musicians playing in funeral processions and parades played a key role in the growth of early jazz in the city. The popularity of jazz soon spread across the country.

The 1920s

The 1920s is referred to as *the golden age of jazz* because of its popularity and growth during the period. Commercial radio stations in the 1920s played the music of performers such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington, allowing people across the country to hear jazz. The development of new musical techniques, such as the stride piano and scat singing, helped jazz blossom from simple music to a more complex form.

The Swing Era

The popularity of swing flourished from the mid 1930s to the mid 1940s. This new style of jazz consisted of four beats to the bar; people commonly danced to it. The boogie-woogie piano style was also popular. Bands of swing musicians played in concert halls and ballrooms across the country, and jazz vocalists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and Nat "King" Cole became enormously popular. The swing era also saw an easing of racial segregation musically; blacks and whites began to play in the same bands.

1940s – '70s

The early 1940s saw the rise of bebop. During the 1940s and '50s, jazz spread internationally and became more experimental. Many jazz musicians in the 1950s incorporated musical styles from around the world into their music. In the 1960s, free and avant-garde jazz became popular. The '70s gave rise to jazz fusion, blending jazz and rock.

Jazz In Our Region

Jazz came here around the 1920s. John Coltrane, one of jazz's most famous musicians, grew up in High Point in the 1930s. During the 1950s and '60s, the Atkins High School Jazz Band in Winston-Salem was a training ground for artists who formed their own jazz and R&B groups. Many of these musicians studied under renowned public school music educators Harry Wheeler and Bernard Foy. For more information, visit www.carolinamusicways.org and go to the "Explore" section.

Rhythm and Blues Overview

Rhythm and Blues (R&B) is used to describe most music in the late 1940s and '50s geared toward an African American audience. While it was originally popular with African Americans, R&B eventually became popular with whites. In the mid '50s, R&B was a primary influence on early rock and roll. By the mid '60s, R&B became known as “soul” music.

Roots

Rhythm and blues was mainly influenced by jazz, blues, and African American gospel music. It primarily developed in major urban areas with large African American populations, such as Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Cincinnati. Originally marketed under the term “race” music, its name was changed due to concern that the term sounded too harsh.

Instruments and Styles

Early R&B bands typically used drums, electric guitars, basses, saxophone, keyboards, and vocals. The sound was usually danceable and upbeat. Beginning in the late '40s, three major styles of R&B emerged: “Race” Music, which was typically in the form of a jump blues band featuring a lively sound performed by a small ensemble (Louis Jordan, The Tympany Five); Chicago blues, with its loud performances performed on mostly electric equipment (Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf); and Vocal Style, featuring a vocal group singing harmony and often coming from the African American gospel tradition (“5” Royales, The Dominoes).

Late 1940s

Around 1948, music geared toward African Americans began to be marketed as “rhythm and blues” by independent labels such as Chess and Atlantic. In 1949, the term replaced the category “Race Music” on the Billboard Charts. Major R&B artists of this period included Louis Jordan and Tiny Bradshaw.

1950s

In 1951, Cleveland DJ Allan Freed began referring to the R&B music he was playing as “rock and roll.” Despite lack of attention from them at first, white teenagers began notice the music around 1953. By 1955, it became wildly popular with them, but also became controversial with parents due to racial tensions and/or some of the lyric’s adult content.

By the late 1950s, the popularity of R&B peaked and was popular with both African American and white listeners. Artists such as Little Richard, Carl Perkins, James Brown, Chuck Berry, and Fats Domino soared on the charts. It was common for white performers to release their own versions, or “covers,” of songs originated by African American artists. Elvis Presley used R&B as a main influence on his rock and roll music. Soon, many African American R&B artists also began to move to a more rock sound.

1960s

By the early '60s, R&B had been renamed “soul” music by the charts and fans. Motown Records was launched and would usher in the new sound. In Britain, bands began to frequently cover American R&B songs. These bands included The Rolling Stones and The Yardbirds.

R&B in North Carolina

Of the R&B groups from the North Carolina Piedmont, the pioneering vocal group from Winston-Salem, the “5” Royales, made a big mark on the national music scene. In 2015, they were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame under its “Early Influence” category. Other more locally oriented '50s and '60s R&B groups from the Winston-Salem area, such Gore and the Upsetters and the Eliminators, performed for private functions attended primarily by African Americans. Oscar “Daddy-Oh” Alexander, a popular DJ of the period, played hit R&B songs on WAAA and WAIR and influenced local musical tastes.

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame's Biography of the "5" Royales

In 2015, "5" Royales were posthumously inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame under the "Early Influence" category. This is the Hall of Fame's official statement:

"The '5' Royales are responsible for crafting some of rock and roll's first true standards. Over the course of two decades, from 1945 to 1965, the group created a remarkable body of work that laid the foundation for a host of music that followed in its wake, with pivotal recordings and performing techniques that helped define a variety of styles under the rock and roll umbrella. The group transitioned to secular music by the early 50s, and they were among the very first to incorporate elements of gospel, jazz and blues into the genre of group vocal harmony.

Their resoundingly soulful sound was built around the dual-lead vocals of siblings Johnny and Eugene Tanner. That combination paired perfectly with Lowman Pauling's exceptional songwriting and innovative guitar playing, which profoundly influenced the likes of Steve Cropper and had many similarities to the single-string soloing favored by Albert King and Freddie King.

With a move to King Records in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1954, the "5" Royales hit a stride that produced "Dedicated to the One I Love," which decades later became a hit with versions by the Shirelles and the Mamas & the Papas; and "Tell the Truth," later recorded by Ray Charles and also covered by Eric Clapton. The "5" Royales' "I Think" was a Top 10 R&B hit in 1957 and is a nearly unclassifiable masterpiece. In 1960, "Think" made the R&B Top 10 for a second time in a radical re-working by James Brown and the Famous Flames that pointed toward future funk classics like "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag" and "Cold Sweat." In 1993, Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger recorded a version of "Think" for a solo album, Wandering Spirit. Not long after recording a handful of singles produced by James Brown, the "5" Royales disbanded in 1965."

Source: <https://rockhall.com/inductees/the-5-royales/bio/#sthash.5ZKLvNFt.dpuf>