

Close Read Directions:

1. Read the passage, circling unfamiliar words as you come across them.
2. Find the definitions of your circled words, and write them down in the margin (1-3 word definitions are best).
3. REREAD the passage, underlining the main idea of each song.
4. Read the accompanying questions you were given and **highlight** the answer or related information where it appears in the text.
5. Write your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES that restate the question.

"Brother, Can You Spare a Dime," Lyrics by Yip Harburg, music by Jay Gorne (1931)**Definitions**

They used to tell me I was building a dream, and so I followed the mob,
 When there was earth to plow, or guns to bear, I was always there right on the job.
 They used to tell me I was building a dream, with peace and glory ahead,
 Why should I be standing in line, just waiting for bread?
 Once I built a railroad, I made it run, made it race against time.
 Once I built a railroad; now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?
 Once I built a tower, up to the sun, brick, and rivet, and lime;
 Once I built a tower, now it's done. Brother, can you spare a dime?
 Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,
 Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,
 Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,
 And I was the kid with the drum!
 Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.
 Why don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?
 Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell,
 Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum,
 Half a million boots went slogging through Hell,
 And I was the kid with the drum!
 Say, don't you remember, they called me Al; it was Al all the time.
 Say, don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?

"Nobody Knows You When You're Down And Out Lyrics" lyrics by Bessie Smith (1929)

Once I lived the life of a millionaire
 Spending my money, I didn't care
 I carried my friends out for a good time
 Buying bootleg liquor, champagne and wine
 Then I began to fall so low
 I didn't have a friend, and no place to go
 So if I ever get my hand on a dollar again
 I'm gonna hold on to it till them eagle's green
 Nobody knows you when you down and out
 In my pocket not one penny
 And my friends I haven't any
 But If I ever get on my feet again
 Then I'll meet my long lost friend
 It's mighty strange, without a doubt
 Nobody knows you when you down and out
 I mean when you down and out
 Mmmmmmm... when you're down and out
 Mmmmmmm... not one penny, And my friends I haven't any
 Mmmmmmm... Well I felt so low, Nobody wants me round their door
 Mmmmmmm... Without a doubt, No man can use you when you down and out
 I mean when you down and out

"We're in the Money," lyrics by Al Dubin, music by Harry Warren (from the film *Gold Diggers of 1933*, 1933)

We're in the money, we're in the money;
We've got a lot of what it takes to get along!
We're in the money, that sky is sunny,
Old Man Depression you are through, you done us wrong.
We never see a headline about breadlines today.
And when we see the landlord we can look that guy right in the eye
We're in the money, come on, my honey,
Let's lend it, spend it, send it rolling along!
Oh, yes we're in the money, you bet we're in the money,
We've got a lot of what it takes to get along!
Let's go we're in the money, Look up the skies are sunny,
Old Man Depression you are through, you done us wrong.
We never see a headline about breadlines today.
And when we see the landlord we can look that guy right in the eye
We're in the money, come on, my honey,
Let's lend it, spend it, send it rolling along!

Questions: Answer in complete sentences & highlight your answers where you found them in the text.

1. How do we know that *Brother, Can You Spare Me a Dime?* is about the working class? What are the clues?
2. "Why don't you remember, I'm your pal? Buddy, can you spare a dime?" Who do you think the character of the song is talking to? Explain.
3. How does *Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out?* connect to the Great Depression? What happened to the central figure of the song that many people could probably relate to? Explain.
4. *We're in the Money* has a much more positive message. Why do you think that is? Connect the date to information in your notes. Use specific quotes from the lyrics in your explanation.
5. Writing songs about social, economic, and political issues is something that artists continue to do. Can you think of a modern day example of a modern day song/musician that represents a current social, economic, or political issue? (Make sure it is school appropriate)