**“Billie Holiday,” accessed September 23, 2016, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billie\_Holiday**

**Eleanora Fagan** (April 7, 1915 – July 17, 1959), professionally known as **Billie Holiday**, was an American jazz musician and singer-songwriter with a career spanning nearly thirty years. Nicknamed "**Lady Day**" by her friend and music partner Lester Young, Holiday had a seminal influence on jazz music and pop singing. Her vocal style, strongly inspired by jazz instrumentalists, pioneered a new way of manipulating phrasing and tempo. Holiday was known for her vocal delivery and improvisational skills, which made up for her limited range and lack of formal music education. While there were other jazz singers with equal talent, Billie Holiday had a voice that captured the attention of her audience…Holiday began singing in nightclubs around Harlem…Much of Holiday's material has been rereleased since her death, and she is considered a legendary performer with an ongoing influence on American music. Holiday is the recipient of four Grammy awards, all of them posthumous awards for Best Historical Album. Furthermore, Holiday herself was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1973.

**DIRECTIONS:** Music is a big part of our lives; even if we are not big music fans or CD buyers, music surrounds us--TV, movies, commercials, church, and even elevators. So what does our listening to music reveal about our (society’s/culture’s) values? For this assignment, you will be conducting an analysis of music and how it reflects societal trends, values, and culture.

**GUIDELINES**

•You will closely read and annotate the song lyrics provided.

•Use the additional information provided to help you in your analysis of the lyrics.

•Rewrite the third stanza in your own words.

•Write a paragraph response summarizing the main point of the song and what message it conveys to society. Be sure to consider the intended audience of the song, what type of people you think this song would appeal to and what you consider to be the theme of the song.

**Excerpt from Lady Sings the Blues, the autobiography of Billie Holiday:**

“I only tried once. And neither me nor Mom ever forgot it. I needed some money one night and I knew Mom was sure to have some. So I walked in the restaurant like a stockholder and asked.

 Mom turned me down flat. She wouldn’t give me a cent. She was mad with me and I was mad with her. We exchanged a few words. Then I said, “God bless the child that’s got his own,” and walked out.

 I stayed sore for three weeks. I thought about it and thought about it. One day a whole…song fell into place in my head. Then I rushed down to the Village that night and met Arthur Herzog. He sat down at a piano and picked it out, phrase by phrase, as I sang to him.

 I couldn’t wait to get it down and get it recorded. I told him about the fight with Mom and how I wanted to get even. We changed the lyrics in a couple of spots, but not much.

 This one will get the Duchess, I thought. And it did.”

Holiday, Billie, and William Dufty. "Sunny Side of the Street." *Lady Sings the Blues*. New York: Broadway, 2006. 101. Print.

GOD BLESS THE CHILD

Them that's got shall get
Them that's not shall lose
So the Bible says

And it still is news
Mama may have

Papa may have
But God bless the child that's got his own
That's got his own.

Yes, the strong gets more
While the weak ones fade
Empty pockets don't

Ever make the grade
Mama may have

Papa may have
But God bless the child that's got his own
That's got his own.

Money, you've got lots of friends
Crowding round your door
But when it’s done

And spending ends
They don't come no more
Rich relations give
Crust of bread and such
You can help yourself but don't take too much
Mama may have

Papa may have
But God bless the child that's got his own
That's got his own

Mama may have

Papa may have
But God bless the child that's got his own
That's got his own
He just worry 'bout nothin'
Cause he's got his own
Yes he's got his own

**Writer/s: BILLIE HOLIDAY, ARTHUR HERZOG JR.**