

# The Vietnam War

You're The Expert

# SONG ANALYSIS

# You're The Expert Song Analysis

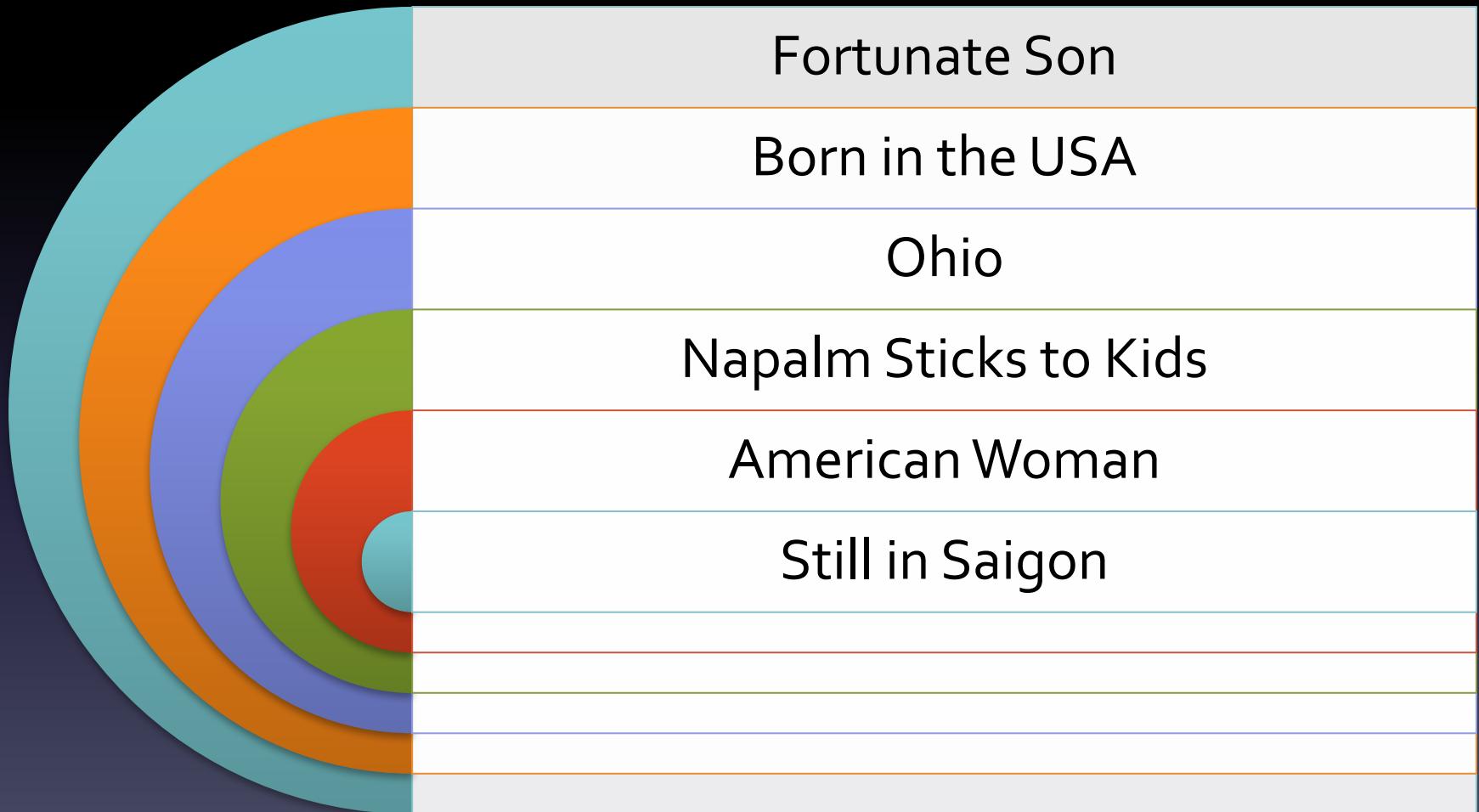
In small groups you will LISTEN to your assigned song

Then as a group you will complete the SONG ANALYSIS

Then as a group you will determine which perspective the song is from and explain why

Finally, you will share with the class your findings and understandings of the song

# Songs For Analysis



# THE TAP CODE

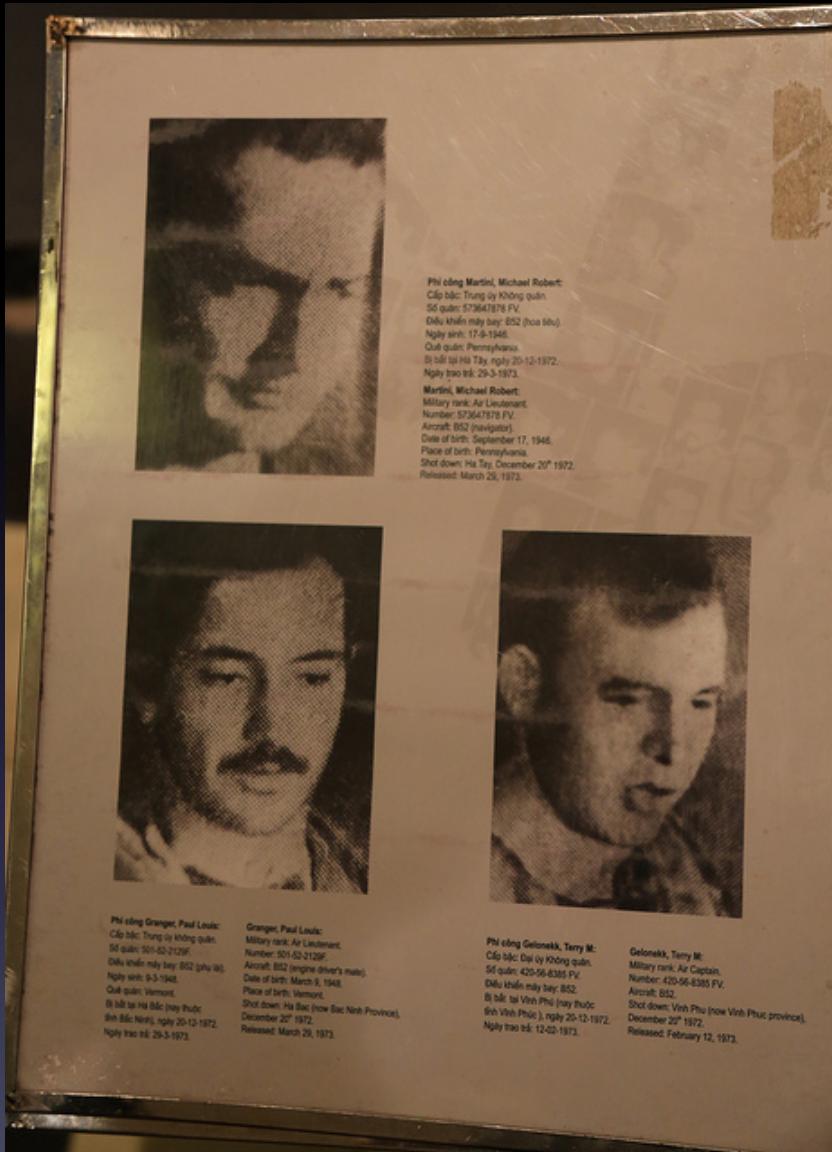
A close-up photograph of a dark, heavily textured metal surface, likely a door or cage. On the left, there is a vertical rectangular slot with several vertical bars across it, resembling a keyhole or a drain. To the right of this slot is a small, dark rectangular plaque. The plaque has the words "The Tap Code" written on it in a white, sans-serif font. The overall texture is rough and worn, with visible rust and paint peeling.

The  
Tap  
Code

During the Vietnam War, some American prisoners of war (POWs) were held at the Hoa Lo prison in Hanoi, North Vietnam. Prisoners gave Hoa Lo the nickname “The Hanoi Hilton” to mock the brutal treatment prisoners at the prison received.

Although prisoners were often not allowed to communicate, they found ways around this rule. One of the most popular was known as the Tap Code. It was a simple code that could be learned quickly and mastered after a few days of use.





The code allowed prisoners to carry on unspoken conversations while seated next to each other at a table. They only had to tap out the code on the knee of the person sitting next to them. The tabletop would not allow the guards to see what was happening.

Later, when back in their cells, prisoners could tap on walls or anything solid that would produce sound to “talk” to prisoners in the cell next to them or down the hall.

# How the code works...

Each letter is communicated by two numbers. The first number represents the horizontal row the letter is on. For example, A, B, C, D, and E are all on horizontal row 1. The second number represents the vertical column the letter is on. For example, B, G, M, R, and W are all on vertical column 2.

Using these two numbers, a prisoner could communicate any letter he wanted to. As an example, the letter B would be communicated by one tap, brief pause, then two taps because its coordinates are (1,2). The letter T would be four taps then another four taps.

\*See your student handout for the letter "K" and how to end a sentence.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	L	M	N	O	P
4	Q	R	S	T	U
5	V	W	X	Y	Z

# Now let's practice...

What would the follow taps spell?

(1,4)(3,4)(3,4)(4,2)

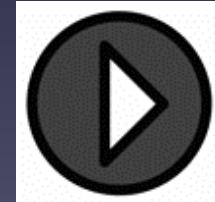
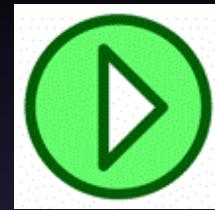
What about these?

(5,4)(3,4)(4,5)(4,4)(2,3)(2,4)(3,3)(1,3)(5,4)(3,4)(4,5)(4,2)(1,5)  
(4,3)(3,4)(4,3)(3,2)(1,1)(4,2)(4,4)

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	L	M	N	O	P
4	Q	R	S	T	U
5	V	W	X	Y	Z

# How would you do?

Time to really test your ability.  
Listen to each of the following tap sequences and see if you can figure out what is being communicated.  
Click each to hear a tap message.



# Answers



Guard near



Stay strong. Don't give up



I want to talk to my family. I'm lonely.

A close-up photograph of a dark, heavily textured metal surface, likely a door or cage. On the left, there is a vertical rectangular slot with several vertical bars across it, resembling a keyhole or a drain. To the right of this slot is a small, dark rectangular plaque. The plaque has the words "The Tap Code" written on it in a white, sans-serif font. The overall texture is rough and worn, with visible rust and paint peeling.

The  
Tap  
Code