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Name _____ Date _____



POETRY

Interactive

Connect Across Texts

The students in "The Freedom Writers Diary" learned to ***empathize*** *with people who stood up for human rights. In this song, the singer realizes that she needs to stand up for her convictions.*

Strength, Courage, and Wisdom

by India Arie

Verse 1

Inside my head there lives a dream that I want to see in the sun.
Behind my eyes there lives a me that I've been hiding for much too long.
'Cause I've been too afraid to let it show
'Cause I'm scared of the judgment that may follow,
Always putting off my living for tomorrow.

Pre-Chorus

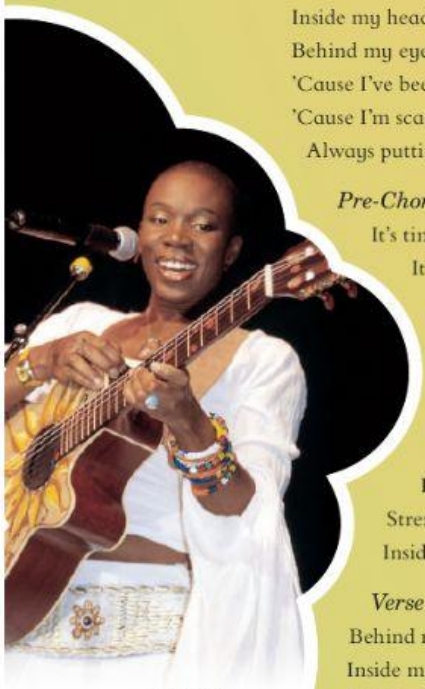
It's time to step out on faith. I've gotta show my faith.
It's been elusive for so long, but freedom is mine today.
I've gotta step out on faith. It's time to show my faith.
Procrastination had me down, but look what I have found.
I found

Chorus

Strength, courage, and wisdom.
It's been inside of me all along.
Strength, courage, and wisdom
Inside of me.

Verse 2

Behind my pride there lives a me that knows humility.
Inside my voice there is a soul, and in my soul, there is a voice.
But I've been too afraid to make a choice.
'Cause I'm scared of the things that I might be missing,
Running too fast to stop and listen.



India Arie performs at a festival in Colorado.

In Other Words

It's been elusive It's been hard to find

Interact with the Text

1. Determine What's Important

Underline a line in the first verse that you consider important. Write a sentence that explains why you chose that line.

2. Word Choice

Circle the repeated words and phrases in the Pre-Chorus and Chorus. Why does Arie use repetition in her song?

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Interact with the Text

3. Interpret
Circle the Bridge section. What do the lines in the Bridge section mean? Summarize the section in your own words.



[Repeat Pre-Chorus]

[Repeat Chorus]

Bridge

I close my eyes and I think of all the things that I want to see.
'Cause I know now that I've opened up my heart
I know that anything I want can be.
So let it be. So let it be.
So let it be. So let it be.

Strength, courage, and wisdom.
It's been inside of me all along.
Strength, courage, and wisdom.
It's been inside of me all along.
Strength, courage, and wisdom
Inside of me.

Selection Review Strength, Courage, and Wisdom

A. Reread the song, and circle the section that you consider the most important. Write its importance below.

The section that I think is most important is _____

because _____

B. Answer the questions.

1. Choose a line Arie repeats. What is she trying to say? Why does she repeat these lines?

2. Which line in the song do you think that most listeners would find most important? Why?

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