



Fiche élèves

2/ The Sharks or the American dream



In the film, Maria – the sister of the Sharks' leader – says:

This is my first time in New York City. I want to be happy here. I want to make a life, a home.

This line is an introduction to a song called *America*. In this song, the Puerto Rican immigrants express their feelings about the United States. But men and women don't agree.

a/ Listen to the 1961 version of the song *America*.

b/ Read the lyrics and draw **W** for the lines sung by women and **M** for the lines sung by men.



☐ I like to be in America	☐ I'll get a terrace apartment
☐ Okay by me in America	☐ Better get rid of your accent
☐ Everything free in America	☐ Life can be bright in America
☐ For a small fee in America	☐ If you can fight in America
☐ Buying on credit is so nice	☐ Life is all right in America
☐ One look at us and they charge twice	☐ If you're a white in America
☐ I have my own washing machine	☐ Here you are free and you have pride
☐ What will you have not to keep clean?	☐ Long as you stay on your own side
☐ Skyscrapers bloom in America	☐ Free to be anything you choose
☐ Cadillacs zoom in America	☐ Free to wait tables and shine shoes
☐ Industry boom in America	☐ Everywhere grime in America
☐ Twelve in a room in America	☐ Organized crime in America
☐ Lots of new housing with more space	☐ Terrible time in America
☐ Lots of doors slamming in our face	

c/ Tick the words corresponding to the women

space

freedom

crime

exploitation

discrimination

consumption