

NINA SIMONE

1. Write the words into the correct gaps:

memory	role	resistance	fact
simple	treatment	known	weapon

Nina Simone was born in North Carolina (US) on February 21, 1933.

She was a singer, songwriter, pianist and activist who used her talent as a (1) _____ in the struggle for African liberation.

At the highest tide of African (2) _____ in the late '60s early '70s, Simone was one of the voices for oppressed black people.

She supported armed self-defense and self-determination for Africans. Nina once said to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "I'm not non-violent."

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About the (3) _____of an artist, Simone once made the remark: “You can’t help it. An artist’s duty, as far as I’m concerned, is to reflect the times.”

One of her most famous songs expressed her anger about the (4) _____of black people in the US. "Mississippi Goddam" was released in 1963. Simone wrote the song in reaction to extreme violence against black Americans. The incidents included the murder of a civil rights activist in Mississippi and the killings of four young girls in Alabama.

Nina died from breast cancer on April 21, 2003 in her home in France. She was 70 years old.

“To Be Young, Gifted and Black”

In 1969, Simone wrote this song in (5) _____ of her close friend, the playwright Lorraine Hansberry, a playwright, activist, and godmother to Simone’s daughter. Hansberry had died of pancreatic cancer in 1965 aged 34.

Hansberry was best (6) _____ for her 1959 play “A Raisin in the Sun”, the first show on Broadway written by an African-American woman.

Simone composed the music, while the words came from her bandleader, Weldon Irvine. According to Irvine, the singer told him to keep it (7) _____ — write something that "will make black children all over the world feel good about themselves, forever."

“To Be Young, Gifted and Black” was included on the album Black Gold in 1970. “In the whole world you know, there are billion boys and girls,” Simone sings. “Who are young, gifted and black, and that’s a (8)_____!”

The song is considered an anthem of the Civil Rights Movement.

Sources:

https://medium.com/@kalondamulamba/nina-simones-revolutionary-music-reflected-the-times-82300f51fc50

http://www.manythings.org/voa/people/Nina_Simone.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_Be_Young,_Gifted_and_Black_(play)

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“To Be Young, Gifted and Black”

To be young, gifted and black,

Oh what a lovely (1) _____ dream

To be young, gifted and black,

Open your heart to what I (2) _____

In the whole world you know

There are billion boys and girls

Who are young, gifted and black,

And that's a fact!

Young, gifted and black

We must (3) _____ to tell our young

There's a world waiting for you

This is a quest that's just begun

When you feel really low

Yeah, there's a great (4) _____ you should know

When you're young, gifted and black

Your soul's (5) _____

Young, gifted and black

How I long to know the truth

There are times when I look back

And I am haunted by my (6) _____

Oh but my joy of today

Is that we can all be (7) _____ to say

To be young, gifted and black

Is (8) _____ it's at

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