

I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free by Nina Simone (1967)



1/ Do you know this singer?
Imagine the kind of music she performs.

2/ Read the title of the song.
Imagine the main theme/message of the song.
What is it about?

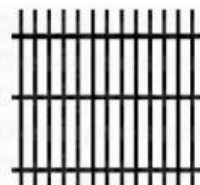
3/ Listen to the song and complete the lyrics

Find in the lyrics the right expression for each image.

I wish I knew how
It would feel to be
I wish I could
All the holding me
I wish I could
All the things that I should
Say 'em loud say 'em
For the whole round world to hear



I wish I could
All the love that's in my
Remove all the
That keep us apart
I wish you could
What it means to be
Then you'd see and agree
That every should be



I wish I could
All I'm longin' to
I wish I could
Like I'm longin' to
I wish I could

Though I'm way overdue
I'd be starting anew.

I wish I could be like a in the
How sweet it would be
If I found out I could
I'd soar to the
And look down at the
And I'd sing 'cause I know
How itto be



4/ Were you right? Now that you have listened to it and read the lyrics, can you say more precisely what the song is about?

Avais-tu raison? Maintenant que tu as écouté la chanson et lu les paroles, peux-tu dire plus précisément de quoi parle la chanson?

5/ Read the singer's short biography and the vocabulary. Concentrate on the words you understand.

Lis la courte biographie de la chanteuse et le vocabulaire. Concentre-toi sur les mots que tu comprends.



Eunice Kathleen Waymon, who later took **Nina Simone** as a stage name*, was born on February 21st 1933 and died on April 21st 2003. She was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, arranger and civil rights activist widely associated with jazz music.

In the sixties, she became known as the voice of the **civil rights movement**, fighting for racial equality. Even if Abraham Lincoln had abolished slavery during the Civil War, many southern states continued to treat African-Americans as second-class citizens. They implemented* laws that kept black people separate from white people (**Segregation**). These laws became known as **Jim Crow Laws**. They required separate schools, restaurants, restrooms, and transportation based on the color of a person's skin.

So, Nina Simone spoke at many civil rights meetings and advocated* violent revolution. She sang to share her truth and has inspired many others thanks to her deep voice.

stage name*: nom de scène

implemented*: ont mis en place

advocated*: was an advocate for: a défendu

6/ Read the lyrics, the biography and complete the table below.

Utilise les paroles et la biographie pour compléter le tableau ci-dessous.

Appuie-toi sur les expressions clés des documents et reformule avec tes propres mots.

1	Present the <u>song</u> (concentrate on the title and its meaning (* <i>signification</i>), the main theme) and the <u>singer</u> (key information, key dates)	
2	Present the <u>historical context</u> linked/related to the song.	
3	Present the <u>narrator and the story told</u> (* <i>racontée</i>) (Narrator: feelings, message, wishes...) Story: setting, atmosphere, images, symbols...)	
4	Identify the <u>universal message the song conveys</u> *(transmits) and its <u>purpose</u> (son objectif). Use the most striking words* (<i>les mots les plus percutants</i>) Why did the singer sing this song?	

6/ In your opinion, what is a protest song? Do you know any other protest song or committed singer?

A ton avis, qu'est-ce qu'une "protest song"? Est-ce que tu en connais d'autres, ou d'autres chanteurs engagés?

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7/ Do you like this song? Est-ce que tu aimes cette chanson, pourquoi?

How does it make you feel? Explain. Qu'est-ce qu'elle te fait ressentir? Justifie.

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