

Slave Spirituals Worksheet

(1) What is the spiritual about?

(2) What are the key words in the spiritual? Why do you consider them to be key words?

Words

Meaning

(3) John Lovell, Jr., in *Black Song: the Forge and the Flame* (New York: Macmillan, 1972), sets up categories for analyzing the implicit (underlying) meaning of slave spirituals. Which category would you put your spiritual in? Why?

Kept the community invigorated

Inspired the uninspired individual

Enabled the group to face its problems

Helped stir each member to personal solutions

Provided a sense of belonging in a terrifying world

Provided a code language for emergency use
