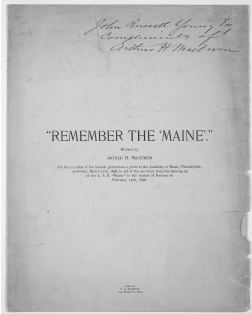


Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.6: Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



Arthur H. MacOwen, "Remember the Maine," 1898.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.16004100/>

Specific page used:

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/rbpe.16004100/?sp=3>

Topic Background:

At 9:40pm on February 15, 1898, the battleship U.S.S. Maine exploded in Havana Harbor, killing 268 men and shocking the American populace. Of the two-thirds of the crew who perished, only 200 bodies were recovered and 76 identified. The sinking of the Maine, which had been in Havana since February 15, 1898, on an official observation visit, was a climax in pre-war tension between the United States and Spain. In the American press, headlines proclaimed "Spanish Treachery!" and "Destruction of the War Ship Maine Was the Work of an Enemy!" William Randolph Hearst and his New York Journal offered a \$50,000 award for the "detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage." Many Americans assumed the Spanish were responsible for the Maine's destruction.

Excerpted from: <http://www.pbs.org/crucible/tl10.html>

Source(s) Used:

The source used in this assessment is the song "Remember the Maine," by Arthur H. MacOwen, which he wrote a few weeks after the ship sank in 1898. MacOwen stated about the verses: "Therefore, these verses under the caption of 'Remember the Maine,' take the shape, not so much of an invocation for revenge for real or fancied wrong, as of a plea for thought and action in the matter of brining to an end a condition of things in the island of Cuba, which is a disgrace to civilized government at the close of the Nineteenth Century."

Excerpted from: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/rbpe.16004100/?sp=2>

Answer Key:

Question 1: D

Question 2: D

Arthur H. MacOwen, "Remember the Maine," 1898.

Remember the "Maine."

Lend your ear to the whisper, it floats from afar,
It has traveled from where, underneath her lone star,
The fair isle of Cuba impatiently waits
The summons to enter our circle of states.
From the depths of her anguish the throes of her pain,
That whisper comes to us, "Remember the 'Maine'."

Lend your ear to the whisper, it comes as a song,
Breathed softly from lips that are saddened by wrong,
But which yet from their temple of misery send
What to father, to mother, to child and to friend
Is a message that falls like a shroud o'er our slain,
And listen! the words are, "Remember the 'Maine'."

Lend your ear to the whisper, it tells of the brave,
Who with sword yet in sheath, know not even a grave;
Can we say had that sword but been awakened in time,
That back from the shot-riven air and the grime
Of the conflict, our sons might have reached us again,
While their foemen would ever "Remember the 'Maine'."

Lend your ear to the whisper, nay more lend your hand,
'Twill be needed, if men yet remain in this land,
That so proudly lays claim to the title of free,
And that now in its sorrow is summoned to be
A saviour, if not an avenger; how plain
Comes the message, O brothers "Remember the 'Maine'."

Lend your ear to the whisper, 'tis growing more strong,
'Tis a whisper no longer, 'tis sweeping along
Through the length and the breadth of this land of the free,
From city to mountain, from mountain to sea,
And the voice of America tells thee, O Spain,
That the men of our country "Remember the 'Maine'."

—Arthur H. MacOwen.

Questions:

- 1) Which phrase best supports the claim: Some Americans wanted to help Cuba escape from Spanish control and become a part of the United States. (CCSS-RH6-8.1)
 - a. "Lend your ear to the whisper, it tells of the brave, who with sword yet in sheath, know not even a grave;"
 - b. "And the voice of America tells thee, O Spain, That the men of our country 'Remember the 'Maine'."
 - c. "What to father, to mother, to child and to friend Is a message that falls like a shroud o'er our slain,"
 - d. "The fair isle of Cuba impatiently waits The summons to enter our circle of states."

- 2) Which statement best shows who the author blames for the sinking of the Maine? (CCSS-RH6-8.6)
 - a. "The fair isle of Cuba impatiently waits."
 - b. "Who with sword yet in sheath, know not even a grave."
 - c. "Of the conflict, our sons might have reached us again, While their foemen would ever 'Remember the 'Maine'."
 - d. And the voice of America tells thee, O Spain. That the men of our country 'Remember the 'Maine'."