STEP 4 AN UNFULFILLED DREAM?

**Document 1: Like a king**

Well Martin’s dream  
Has become Rodney’s worst Nightmare  
Can’t walk the streets  
To them we are fair game  
Our lives don’t mean a thing  
  
*Like a king, like a king, like a king   
Rodney King, Rodney King, Rodney King   
Like a king, like a king, like a king  
How I wish you could help us Dr. King*  
  
Make sure it’s filmed   
Shown on national T.V.   
They’ll have no mercy   
A legal lynch mob  
Like the days strung up from the tree  
The L.A.P.D.

*Like A King*, Ben Harper, 1992.  
  
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**Document 2: Sister Rosa**

A bus driver said, “Lady, you got to get up   
‘Cause a white person wants that seat”  
But Miss Rosa said, “No, not no more  
I’m gonna sit here and rest my feet”  
  
*Thank you Miss Rosa, you are the spark   
You started our freedom movement   
Thank you Sister Rosa Parks [...]*  
  
The people of Montgomery sat down to talk  
It was decided all God’s children should walk   
Until segregation was brought to its knees   
And we obtain freedom and equality, yeah  
  
*Thank you Miss Rosa, you are the spark   
You started our freedom movement   
Thank you Sister Rosa Parks [...]*

*Sister Rosa*, The Neville Brothers, 1989.

**Document 3: Beloved/Still I rise**

Freeing yourself was one thing, claiming ownership of that freed self was another.

*Beloved*, Toni Morrison, 1987.

You may shoot me with your words, You may cut me with your eyes, You may kill me with your hatefulness, But still, like air, I’ll rise.

*Still I Rise*, Maya Angelou, 1978.

**Exercise 1: Choose one document and answer the following questions**

1. Pick out the proper nouns and say what you know about the people mentioned. Go online if necessary.
2. Rephrase in your own words the difficulties these people had to face

**Exercise 2: Share your findings with your classmates**

1. What do these documents highlight about Black History and ongoing issues?
2. To what extent can art be used as a tool to fight for a cause?

## ACTIVITY: Find another silent gesture or set of lyrics that echoes these messages in denouncing inequality. Write a Twitter thread to express your feelings and reaction. Add a dedicated hashtag to your tweets.

