Standards:
Writing Applications 2.2- Write responses to literature:
a. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the significant ideas in works or passages.
c. Support important ideas and viewpoints through accurate and detailed references to the text and to other works.

Objective:
Upon completion of the this assignment, SWBAT

- analyze how numerous song lyrics reflect the conflicts (either internal or external) characters from Fences endure
- write a coherent essay that reflects the evolution of a dynamic character in Fences, using specific examples and textual evidence

Procedure:
1. Students will read the drama Fences as a class
2. Upon completion, students will receive a “Song Lyrics” Packet and Organizing Handout
3. Read the lyrics as each song is being played
4. After reading/hearing each song, complete the appropriate section of the handout, answering
   a. Character reflected through song
   b. Analyze lyrical and textual connection
   c. Support analysis with specific lyrics and excerpts from the drama
5. Select one dynamic character from the play about whom to write a coherent essay
Song Lyrics #1- "Giving Up" by Donny Hathaway

Giving up is hard to do
When you really love someone
Giving up .... so hard to do
When you still depend upon
Her warm and tender touch
Her kiss and her hug..........her caress
Ooooooh that used to mean so much
And bring you happiness
Woooo oooooooooh

Giving up, so hard to do
I've tried
But it just ain't no use
Giving up, so hard to do
I said I've tried
But it just ain't no use
But my light of hope is burning dim
But
But in my heart I pray
That my love and faith in the girl
My love...will bring her back someday

I'm talking 'bout when you really love someone

Whether
Whether she knows or not
She really needs me tooThe little girl is all I got
Yes she is
And giving, giving up is hard to do
Giving up
So hard to do
Heey...giving up
So very hard to do
I said I've tried
Hey, but I just can't get loose
Giving up
So hard for me to do
I don't want to lose you
Cause you mean so much to me
Song Lyrics #2- “I Got Some Help I Don’t Need” by B.B. King

All of your affection is gone baby and your love is growing cold
I've said all of your affection is gone baby and your love is growing cold
Hey, I've got a new story to tell you this evening, baby
One that ain't never been told

I went to work the other day
But I thought that I would double back
And that car I saw sitting in front of my door Looked like a brand new, a brand new Cadillac, yeah!

I ain't got none now baby
I think you've been cheating on me
I believe to my soul baby, that you've given me some outside help
That I don't think I really need

The iceman came by this morning
And you know he didn't leave no ice
The postman came by later baby
And he didn't even ring twice

I think you've been cheating on me
I think you're running out on me
I believe to my soul baby, that you've given me some outside help
That I don't think I really need

Now, I want you to tell the iceman
The next time he'd better leave some ice
And I want you to tell the postman
He'd better ring more than twice

And when I come home from work in the morning
Better still be some groceries on the shelf
I want to tell that slick insurance man
That he'd better write some insurance on his self

Yes, I think you've been cheating on me
I think you're running out on me
I believe to my soul baby, that you've given me some help, some help
Some help, I don't really need
Song Lyrics #3- "Papa Was a Rolling Stone" by The Temptations

It was the third of September.
That day I'll always remember, yes I will.
'Cause that was the day that my daddy died.
I never got a chance to see him.
Never heard nothing but bad things about him.
Mama, I'm depending on you, tell me the truth.

And Mama just hung her head and said,
"Son, Papa was a rolling stone.
Wherever he laid his hat was his home.
(And when he died) All he left us was ALONE."
"Papa was a rolling stone, my son.
Wherever he laid his hat was his home.
(And when he died) All he left us was ALONE."

Well, well.

Hey Mama, is it true what they say,
that Papa never worked a day in his life?
And Mama, bad talk going around town
saying that Papa had three outside children and another wife.
And that ain't right.
HEARD SOME talk about Papa doing some store front preaching.
Talking about saving souls and all the time leeching.
Dealing in debt and stealing in the name of the Lord.

Mama just hung her head and said,
"Papa was a rolling stone, my son.
Wherever he laid his hat was his home.
(And when he died) All he left us was ALONE."
"Hey, Papa was a rolling stone.
Wherever he laid his hat was his home.
(And when he died) All he left us was ALONE."

Uh!

Hey Mama, I heard Papa call himself a jack of all trade.
Tell me is that what sent Papa to an early grave?
Folk say Papa would beg, borrow, steal to pay his bill.
Hey Mama, folk say that Papa was never much on thinking.
Spent most of his time chasing women and drinking.
Mama, I'm depending on you to tell me the truth. Mama looked up with a tear in her eye and said,
"Son, Papa was a rolling stone. (Well, well, well, well)
Wherever he laid his hat was his home.
(And when he died) All he left us was ALONE."
"Papa was a rolling stone.
Wherever he laid his hat was his home.
(And when he died) All he left us was ALONE."

"I said, Papa was a rolling stone. Wherever he laid his hat was his home.
(And when he died) All he left us was ALONE."
Song Lyrics #4- "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood" by Nina Simone

Baby, you understand me now
if sometimes you see that I'm mad.
Don't you know that no one alive can always be an angel?
When everything goes wrong, you see some bad.

But I'm just a soul whose intentions are good;
Oh Lord, please don't let me be misunderstood.

You know sometimes, baby, I'm so carefree
with a joy that's hard to hide.
And then sometimes it seems again that all I have is worry,
and then you're bound to see my other side.

But I'm just a soul whose intentions are good;
Oh Lord, please don't let me be misunderstood.

If I seem edgy,
I want you to know,
I never meant to take it out on you.
Life has its problems,
and I get more than my share;
but that's one thing I never mean to do
'cause I love you.

Oh baby, I'm just human.
Don't you know I have faults like anyone?
Sometimes I find myself alone regretting
some little foolish thing;
some simple thing that I've done.

But I'm just a soul whose intentions are good;
Oh Lord, please don't let me be misunderstood.

Don't let me be misunderstood.
I try so hard,
so don't let me be misunderstood.
Song Lyrics #5- “A Change Is Gonna Come” by Sam Cooke

I was born by the river in a little tent
Oh and just like the river I’ve been running ever since
It’s been a long, a long time coming
But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will

It's been too hard living but I'm afraid to die
Cause I don't know what's up there beyond the sky
It's been a long, a long time coming
But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will

I go to the movie and I go downtown
Somebody keep telling me don't hang around
It's been a long, a long time coming
But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will

Then I go to my brother
And I say brother help me please
But he winds up knocking me
Back down on my knees

Ohhhhhhhhhh.....

There been times that I thought I couldn't last for long
But now I think I'm able to carry on
It's been a long, a long time coming
But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will
Fences: An Odyssey Through Music

Song Lyrics #6- “Open Up Them Pearly Gates for Me” by Doc Watson

Listen all of you sinners
If you wanna go to heaven, heaven
You’d better get right down on your knees and pray

All you gambling sinners
You’d better get saved at 7-11
You’d better get ready for to meet that judgment day

Open up them pearly gates
Open up them pearly gates
Open up them pearly gates for me

When you hear the trumpet blast
I’ll be coming home at last
Open up them pearly gates for me

I done had a vision
I seen them pearly gates a’closing
And I seen you sinners all outside

You’d better make your decision
And pray that you’ll be chosen, chosen
It’ll be too late when you’ve laid down and died

Open up them pearly gates
Open up them pearly gates
Open up them pearly gates for me

When you hear the trumpet blast
I’ll be coming home at last
Open up them pearly gates for me

You’d better go out to your chicken roost
And ask yourself an honest question
And the good Lord’s gonna know it if you lied

You’d better turn all them chickens loose
Or you gonna die from indigestion
When you eat that stolen chicken pie
Fences: An Odyssey Through Music

Open up them pearly gates
Open up them pearly gates
Open up them pearly gates for me

When you hear the trumpet blast
I'll be coming home at last
Open up them pearly gates for me

You'd better take that ole keg of gin
And dump it ever' bit right in the river
And don't let ole Satan stay your hand

For if you fill it up again
It's gonna get a hole right in liver
And the gates won't open when you reach the promise land

Open up them pearly gates
Open up them pearly gates
Open up them pearly gates for me

When you hear the trumpet blast
I'll be coming home at last
Open up them pearly gates for me
Song Lyrics #7- “Confessions Part II” by Usher

Watch this...

[Chorus:]
These are my confessions
Just when I thought I said all I could say
My chick on the side said she got one on the way
These are my confessions
Man I’m thrown and I dont know what to do
I guess I gotta give part 2 of my confessions
If I’m gonna tell it then I gotta tell it all
Damn near cried when I got that phone call
I’m so threwed and I don’t know what to do
But to give you part 2 of my confessions

[Verse 1]
Now this gon’ be the hardest thing I think I ever had to do
Got me talkin’ to myself askin’ how I’m gon’ tell you
’bout that chick on part 1 I told ya’ll I was creepin’ with, creepin’ with
Said she’s 3 months pregnant and she’s keepin’ it
The first thing that came to mind was you
Second thing was how do I know if it’s mine and is it true
Third thing was me wishin’ that I never did what I did
How I ain’t ready for no kid and bye bye to our relationship

[Chorus]

[Verse 2]
Sittin here stuck on stupid, tryna figure out
When, what, and how I’mma let this come out of my mouth
Said it ain’t gon’ be easy
But I need to stop thinkin’, contemplatin’
Be a man and get it over with (over with)
I’m ridin’ in my whip
Racin’ to her place
Talkin’ to myself
Preparin’ to tell her to her face
She open up the door and didn’t want to come near me
I said "one second baby please hear me"

[Chorus]
[Breakdown]
This by far is the hardest thing I think I've ever had to do
To tell you, the woman I love
That I'm having a baby by a woman that I barely even know
I hope you can accept the fact that I'm man enough to tell you this
And hopefully you'll give me another chance
This ain't about my career
This ain't about my life
It's about us
Please

[Chorus]
Organizing Handout

Song Title: “Giving Up”
Relevant to which Fences character: ___________________________
Relevant song lyrics: _________________________________________

Supporting textual evidence (be sure to include Act, Scene, and line #s): __________________________

______________________________

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Song Title: “I Got Some Help I Don’t Need”
Relevant to which Fences character: ___________________________
Relevant song lyrics: _________________________________________

Supporting textual evidence (be sure to include Act, Scene, and line #s): __________________________

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Song Title: “Papa Was a Rolling Stone”
Relevant to which Fences character: ___________________________
Relevant song lyrics: _________________________________________

Supporting textual evidence (be sure to include Act, Scene, and line #s): __________________________

______________________________
**Fences: An Odyssey Through Music**

**Song Title:** “Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood”  
Relevant to which *Fences* character: ____________________  
Relevant song lyrics: ___________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
Supporting *textual evidence* (be sure to include Act, Scene, and line #s): ___________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  

**Song Title:** “A Change Is Gonna Come”  
Relevant to which *Fences* character: ____________________  
Relevant song lyrics: ___________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
Supporting *textual evidence* (be sure to include Act, Scene, and line #s): ___________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  

**Song Title:** “Open Up Them Pearly Gates for Me”  
Relevant to which *Fences* character: ____________________  
Relevant song lyrics: ___________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
Supporting *textual evidence* (be sure to include Act, Scene, and line #s): ___________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________________  


Song Title: “Confessions Part II”
Relevant to which *Fences* character: ______________________
Relevant song lyrics: ______________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
Supporting textual evidence (be sure to include Act, Scene, and line #s): ______________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
Culminating Essay Prompt:

In a coherent essay, trace the evolution of a dynamic character in *Fences*, using specific examples and textual evidence. For the purposes of this essay, you may (and are encouraged to) use your copy of *Fences* and any applicable notes and/or organizers.