**Civil Rights Movement (Continued)**

*Directions: Answer the following questions about “America” and “Ballad of Birmingham.”*

1. First read “America.” Then, summarize the poem in 2-3 sentences. Then use the following chart to organize two lines of the poem’s literal and deeper meanings – figures of speech.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| line # | literal meaning | deeper meaning |
|  |  |  |

2. Discuss the poem’s speaker. Give all the details you can find in the poem and make inferences about the speaker’s voice. What effect does the speaker have on the poem’s tone, mood, and message?

3. Now read “Ballad of Birmingham.” First, summarize the poem in 2-3 sentences. Then use the following chart to organize two lines of the poem’s literal and deeper meanings – figures of speech.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| line # | literal meaning | deeper meaning |
|  |  |  |

4. Discuss the poem’s speaker. Give all the details you can find in the poem and make inferences about the speaker’s voice. What effect does the speaker have on the poem’s tone, mood, and message?

5. Think about the speaker in each poem. What conclusions about achieving the American Dream can you draw from each speaker’s persona?