

Jazz Speaks Out Answer Key

Students should recognize the following:

- Excerpt A shows people kept socializing, dancing, and finding joy despite the alcohol ban
- Excerpt B shows frustration, defiance, preference for illegal alcohol ("moonshine")
- Evidence: lines referencing keeping the fun going, refusing the ban, choosing moonshine, continuing nightlife
- Not all Americans supported Prohibition - resistance and dissatisfaction were common
- Music reflects public mood, personal experiences, and social behaviors of the era

Any reasonable interpretation supported by text evidence should earn credit.

Teacher's Guide

Before the Activity

- Briefly preview the role of jazz and blues in 1920s culture
- Define "moonshine," nightlife culture, and social resistance

Engagement Strategies

- Play a brief, school-appropriate snippet of 1920s jazz (optional)
- Group discussion on how culture reacts to laws and restrictions
- Students share modern songs that comment on social issues

Extension Ideas

- Write a short verse that reflects another perspective on Prohibition
- Compare music from rural vs. urban audiences during the 1920s
- Analyze a political cartoon about nightlife or speakeasies alongside the lyrics