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### Immigration During Wartime

Along with the development of cultures and languages, the universal language of music was written. Throughout time, rhythm has allowed people to connect with others, as well as the world around them. Song has enabled man to find the strength that does not always naturally manifest in us. During World War I, popular artists wrote songs for soldiers and their loved ones at home in an effort to help them endure the difficult times caused by the war. Just as soldiers and their families have done, we all look to music to guide and bring us together with the people we surround ourselves by.

Music has the power to bind the group of people listening to it. During World War I, songs like *Over There* were used to make soldiers feel proud of their position on the battlefield and rile them up to fight for their country. Other songs such as *Keep the Home Fires Burning*, came out to keep the morale high for families at home who were missing their sons and husbands. Although there was great distance between home and the battlefield, this song connected them together despite the thousands of miles between them. In the chorus, this song orders to “Keep the home fires burning / While your hearts are yearning / Though your lads are far away / They dream of home”. Sometimes the absence of a loved one can make it difficult to carry on, but this song offers a reminder that their soldier is thinking of them and it is necessary to keep moving forward. Another song that was inspired by the United States’ entry into World War I was called *Pack Up Your Troubles*. There is no doubt that wartime makes life harder for many people, and this more upbeat and cheerful song helped inspire a nationalistic and prideful mood at home. By listening to these songs, Americans were able to look on the brighter side of their given

situation. Uniting with those who were feeling the same way allowed communities to form and for people to support each other during the hard times.

In the same way that music connected soldiers to their fellow brethren and loved ones back home, it can also connect groups and teams together. The camaraderie and relationship that is established through song is strong, and because I love music, it is something that has always stood out to me. In such an intense circumstance as war, people can find themselves desperate for something to keep them connected with those they love. As the lyrics of these songs prove, sometimes all it takes is a tune to lighten the mood even for just a little bit.