Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English 10

**Directions:** As we listen to Aretha Franklin’s cover of Sam Cooke’s “A Change is Gonna Come” please annotate for meaning and understanding. As you follow along with the lyric sheet, please consider how a song such as this one may be used to define one’s own philosophy of life.

“A Change Is Gonna Come”

Aretha Franklin

There's an old friend that  
I once heard say  
Something that touched my heart  
And it began this way

I was born by the river  
In a little tent  
And just like the river  
I've been runnin ever since  
He said it's been a long time comin'  
But I know my change is gonna come  
Oh yeah

He said it's been too hard livin'  
But I'm afraid to die  
I might not be if I knew  
What was up there  
Beyond the sky  
It's been a long, a long time comin'  
But I know my change has got to come  
Oh yeah

I went, I went to my brother  
And I asked him, brother  
Could you help me, please?  
He said, good sister  
I'd like to but I'm not able  
And when I, when I looked around  
I was right back down  
Down on my bended knees  
Yes I was, oh

There've been times that I thought  
I thought that I wouldn't last for long  
But somehow right now I believe  
That I'm able, I'm able to carry on

I tell you that it's been along  
And oh it's been an uphill journey  
All the way  
But I know, I know, I know

I know my change is gonna come  
Sometimes I had to cry all night long  
Yes I did  
Sometimes  
I had to give up right

For what I knew was wrong  
Yes it's been an uphill journey  
It's sure's been a long way comin  
Yes it has

It's been real hard  
Every step of the way  
But I believe, I believe  
This evenin' my change is come

Yeah I tell you that  
My change is come

Songwriters: Sam Cooke