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