CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS AS YOU REVIEW THE LYRICS

If a slave holder were to hear enslaved persons singing these songs, to what might he object?

List some specific lyrics from each song that he would find objectionable.

* SONG: MY MIND STAYED ON FREEDOM-
* SONG: RUN MARY, RUN
* SONG: ALL GOD’S CHILDREN GOT SHOES

List lyrics that a slave holder might not object to, but that an enslaved person would interpret as being a rejection of slavery.

* SONG:MY MIND STAYED ON FREEDOM
* SONG: RUN MARY, RUN
* SONG: ALL GOD’S CHILDREN GOT SHOES

Enslaved persons were taught from birth that they were naturally meant to be slaves. How do the lyrics of these songs suggest that they have rejected that teaching?

* SONG: RUN MARY, RUN
* ALL GOD’S CHILDREN GOT SHOES

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

* What might have occurred in the lives of enslaved persons to raise in their minds the realization that they were not meant for a life of slavery?
* Where in the lyrics do you hear the strongest criticism of the claim that enslaved persons were meant to be under the complete control of the slave holders?
* What documents in American history would support the ideas presented in the lyrics of Run Mary, Run?
* Which lyrics indicate the sources of strength or the powers the enslaved persons depend on as they live through the experience of slavery?
* What American ideal, mentioned in such historic documents as The Declaration of Independence, seems to be a focus of the song All God’s Children Got Shoes?
* If a slave holder were to hear the song All God’s Children Got Shoes, how might he react?
* Do you think he would interpret the lyrics as a criticism of the slave system, or solely as a religious song about the afterlife?
* What effect might such songs as these have had on a slave child raised to believe that she was naturally meant to be enslaved?