TEACHING HUMAN DIGNITY

Evaluating Song Lyrics Activity (Answer Key)

Student Names:

Instructions: Your group will be given a set of song lyrics to evaluate. First, read through the lyrics. Then, answer the following questions as a group. Before you record your answer, make sure you have discussed the question thoroughly and given each member of your group a chance to share their answer.

- 1. Which song did your group evaluate? <u>Summer Nights (from Grease)</u>
- 2. What words or phrases would you use to describe the romantic relationship represented in this song? *Short-lived (summer fling); pleasurable; casual*
- 3. Is this song told from the perspective of a man, a woman, or both?

 Both the song switches back and forth between the man's perspective and the woman's perspective
- 4. Fill out the chart below. The amount of detail you include for each column will depend on the song you've been assigned. For each column, include a lyric that justifies your answer.

What kind of message does this song send about...

The role of men in romantic relationships:	The role of women in romantic relationships:	The longevity of relationships (how long they last):	The role of sex in romantic relationships:	The purpose of romantic relationships:
Men are more interested in the sexual aspect of relationships. Man describes himself as a knight in shining armor. Man brags to his friends about how far he was able to go with the girl physically. Men are satisfied with short-term relationships.	Women are more focused on the emotional aspects of the relationship. Women expect relationships to be longlasting. Women play the passive role in the relationship. Women expect the man to be the provider.	Sexual relationships can be short-term and casual (low-commitment). Woman in the song suggests that she wants the relationship to last.	Sex is the main focus for the man, at least when he's talking about the relationship with his friends. Sex is not mentioned at all from the woman's perspective.	Having fun, pleasure. Temporary entertainment (for the summer).
Lyric(s): "I saved her life, she nearly drowned." "Well, she was good, you know what I mean." "I told her we'd still be friends."	Lyric(s): "He was sweet, just turned eighteen." "Then we made our true love vow." "Did she up put a fight?" "How much dough did he spend?"	Lyric(s): "Summer fling, don't mean a thing." "Then we made our true love vow."	Lyric(s): "She got friendly down in the sand." "Well, she was good, you know what I mean."	Lyric(s): "Summer fling, don't mean a thing"