

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Korean War

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

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## Truman’s Address on Korea

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Read the following excerpt from President Harry S. Truman’s address on July 19, 1950.

\n[passage]

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Notes

## Family Reunions

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The Korean War not only separated the two Koreas but also many families. War-torn families have not been able to communicate with or see each other since 1953, the end of the Korean War. North and South Korean Red Cross officials have campaigned since 1971 to bring separated families together. It wasn't until 2000 that the first reunification event took place, where 100 South Koreans and 100 North Koreans were able to see their loved ones.

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Since 2000, there have only been 21 state-organized family reunions. The reunions are usually heavily supervised and brief. They last only a few days and are very emotional for everyone involved. They provide a glimpse of the pain and loss that many Korean families have and continue to experience due to the division of the two countries.

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Many of the affected family members are in their 80s, so there is a sense of urgency around these reunification events. But the number of family reunions has decreased in recent years due to tensions between the two Koreas. Despite these challenges, many are still hopeful that they'll be able to see their loved ones again.

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**Excerpt from The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War by David Halberstam**

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Unlike Vietnam, the Korean War took place before television news came into its own and the United States became a communications society. In the days of Korea, television news shows were short, bland, and of marginal influence\xe2\x80\x94fifteen minutes a night. Given the state of the technology, the footage from Korea, usually making it into the network newsrooms back in New York days late, rarely moved the nation. It was still largely a print war, reported in newspapers in black and white, and it remained black and white in the nation\xe2\x80\x99s consciousness.

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And so the true brutality of the war never really penetrated the American cultural consciousness. An estimated 33,000 Americans died in it. Another 105,000 were wounded. The South Koreans lost 415,000 killed and had 429,000 wounded. Both the Chinese and North Koreans were exceptionally secretive about their casualties, but American officials put their losses at roughly 1.5 million men killed. The Korean War momentarily turned the Cold War hot, heightening the already considerable (and mounting) tensions between the United States and the Communist world and deepening the chasm between the United States and Communist forces asserting themselves in Asia.

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