

UNIT 3 What We Keep Poetry Connection

A STEM school

FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



THE BALLAD OF



DENISE McNAIR

ADDIE MAE COLLINS

CYNTHIA WESLEY

CAROLE ROBERTSON

BIRMINGHAM

WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Our home.

Our workplace.

A school.

A church.

What do they have in common? They are considered sanctuaries, safe havens by most people. You are supposed to be safe from harm in places like these.

Really?

Take a minute to react and explain your response in the notebook.

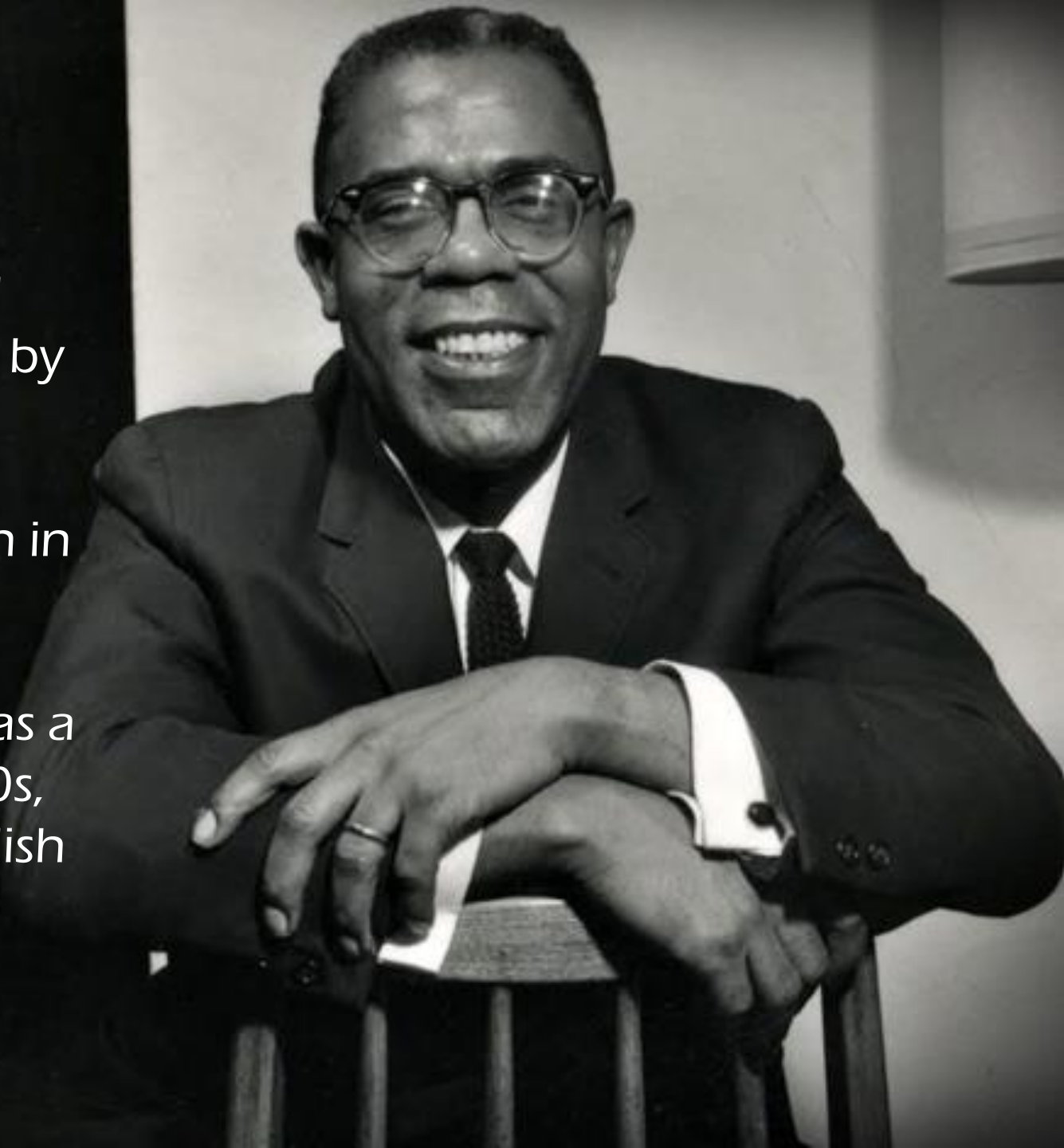
4 LITTLE GIRLS IN BIRMINGHAM



On September 15, 1963, the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church—the largest African-American church in Birmingham, Alabama—four members of the Ku Klux Klan planted 19 sticks of dynamite attached to a timing device beneath the steps of the church. Four young girls were killed in the mid-morning attack: Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, Addie Mae Collins, and Denise McNair.

Dudley Randall wrote “Ballad of Birmingham” in response to this tragic event. The poem was set to music and recorded, and then published in 1965 by Dudley Randall’s Broadside Press.

Dudley Randall (1914–2000) was born in Washington, DC. After returning from World War II he earned degrees in English and Library Science. Working as a librarian throughout the 1950s and 60s, he established Broadside Press to publish the work of African-American poets. Broadside Press’ first publication was “Ballad of Birmingham”



A BALLAD

As the title makes clear, "Ballad of Birmingham" is a ballad. This means that its stanzas are quatrains (they have four lines), use common meter, and follow a rhyme scheme in which the second and fourth lines of each stanza rhyme with one another. Originally they were originally "dance songs".





LITERARY CONCEPT

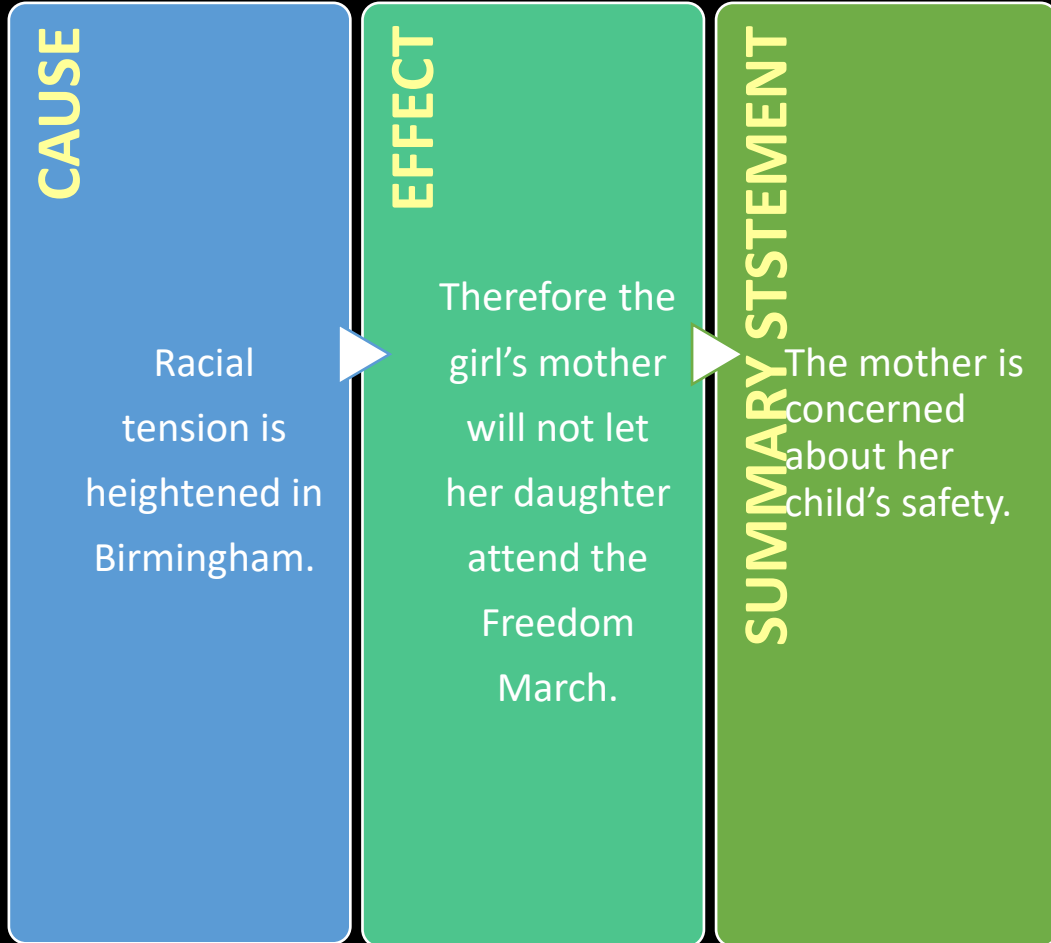
Context

The context of a literary work is the circumstances or events that form the environment in which an event takes place.

Setting

Is the time and place in which events take place. Recognizing the context and setting is important to understanding "Ballad of Birmingham."

LITERARY SKILL



Cause and Effect

To evaluate cause and effect, you look for a logical relationship between causes and effects. Transitional or signal words and phrases indicate cause and effect and include one cause, another effect, as a result, consequently, and therefore.

You must determine whether the causes and effects in a text are reasonable. Use a Cause-and-Effect Chart, like the one here, to recognize two more relationships between causes and effects.



A NEWS ARTICLE

Included in the text, you'll find an excerpt from a New York Times article reporting about the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, right after the poem. The African-American Civil Rights movement gained national attention because of its determination to end racial discrimination. While activists and community leaders strove to end hostilities, many of those who supported segregation and saw their status or privilege threatened, continued to commit acts of violence.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pgs. 222 -225, in your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Context and Setting** - What techniques does the author use to reveal the context and setting of this poem? If you did not have any background information on this poem, do you think you would understand it as well?

