



English Song  
Activity  
by the  
Ruthless Teacher

# America from the film *West side story*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2igZexpMs>



## Listen to the song and complete the lyrics

[ANITA]  
Puerto Rico  
My heart's .....  
Let it sink back in the ocean  
Always the ..... blowing  
Always the population .....  
And the money .....  
And the ..... streaming  
And the natives .....  
I like the island Manhattan  
..... on your pipe  
And put that in!

[GIRLS]  
I like to be in America  
Okay by me in America  
Everything ..... in America

[BERNARDO]  
For a small ..... in America

[ANITA]  
Buying on ..... is so nice

[BERNARDO]  
One look at us and they ..... twice

[ROSALIA]  
I have my own washing .....

[INDIO]  
What will you ..... though to keep  
clean?

[ANITA]  
Skyscrapers ..... in America

[ROSALIA]  
Cadillacs zoom in America

[TERESITA]  
..... boom in America

[BOYS]  
..... in a room in America

[ANITA]  
Lots of ..... housing with more space



[BERNARDO]  
Lots of doors ..... in our face

[ANITA]  
I'll get a ..... apartment

[BERNARDO]  
Better get rid of your .....

[ANITA]  
Life can be ..... in America

[BOYS]  
If you can ..... in America

[GIRLS]  
Life is all right in America

[BOYS]  
If you're all ..... in America

[GIRLS]  
Here you are free and you have .....

[BOYS]  
Long as you stay on your ..... side

[GIRLS]  
Free to be ..... you choose

[BOYS]  
Free to wait tables and ..... shoes

[BERNARDO]  
Everywhere grime in America  
..... crime in America  
Terrible time in America

[ANITA]  
You ..... I'm in America

[BERNARDO]  
I think I'll go ..... to San Juan

[ANITA]  
I know a ..... you can get on (Bye Bye!)

[BERNARDO]  
Everyone there will give big .....

[ANITA]  
Everyone there will have ..... here



## Complete the text with the words below:

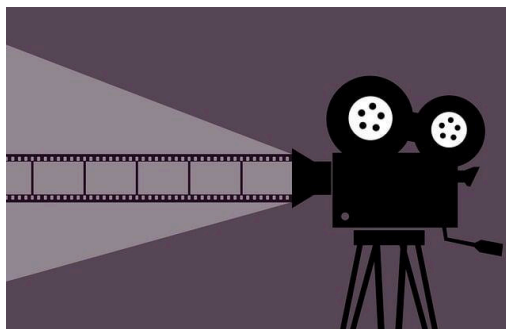
leader   member   nominated   rivalry   inspired   scenes   adaptation

'*West Side Story*' is a musical ..... by William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. The story is set in the Upper West Side neighborhood in New York City in the mid 1950s, an ethnic, blue-collar neighborhood. The musical explores the ..... between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. The members of the Sharks, from Puerto Rico, are taunted by the Jets, a white gang. The young protagonist, Tony, a former ..... of the Jets and best friend of the gang's leader, Riff, falls in love with Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the ..... of the Sharks. The dark theme, sophisticated music, extended dance ..... and focus on social problems marked a turning point in American musical theatre. A 1961 musical film ....., directed by Robert Wise and Robbins, starred Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, Rita Moreno, George Chakiris and Russ Tamblyn. The film was ..... for eleven Academy Awards and won ten, including George Chakiris (the one with the purple shirt!) for Supporting Actor, Rita Moreno for Supporting Actress, and Best Picture.



**Did you like the song and this scene in general?**

**Do you think that the life of immigrants has changed over the years? Justify your opinion.**



# Teacher's Copy-level B2

## A. Listen to the song and complete the lyrics

[ANITA]

Puerto Rico

My heart's devotion

Let it sink back in the ocean

Always the hurricanes blowing

Always the population growing

And the money owing

And the sunlight streaming

And the natives steaming

I like the island Manhattan

Smoke on your pipe

And put that in!

[GIRLS]

I like to be in America

Okay by me in America

Everything free in America

[BERNARDO]

For a small fee in America

[ANITA]

Buying on credit is so nice

[BERNARDO]

One look at us and they charge twice

[ROSALIA]

I have my own washing machine

[INDIO]

What will you have though to keep clean?

[ANITA]

Skyscrapers bloom in America

[ROSALIA]

Cadillacs zoom in America

[TERESITA]

Industry boom in America

[BOYS]

Twelve in a room in America

[ANITA]

Lots of new housing with more space

[BERNARDO]

Lots of doors slamming in our face

[ANITA]

I'll get a terrace apartment

[BERNARDO]

Better get rid of your accent

[ANITA]

Life can be bright in America

[BOYS]

If you can fight in America

[GIRLS]

Life is all right in America

[BOYS]

If you're all white in America

[GIRLS]

Here you are free and you have pride

[BOYS]

Long as you stay on your own side

[GIRLS]

Free to be anything you choose

[BOYS]

Free to wait tables and shine shoes

[BERNARDO]

Everywhere grime in America

Organized crime in America

Terrible time in America

[ANITA]

You forget I'm in America

[BERNARDO]

I think I'll go back to San Juan

[ANITA]

I know a boat you can get on (Bye Bye!)

[BERNARDO]

Everyone there will give big cheer!

[ANITA]

Everyone there will have moved here

### **B. Complete the text with the words below**

**leader   member   nominated   rivalry   member   inspired   scenes   adaptation**

*West Side Story* is a musical **inspired** by William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. The story is set in the Upper West Side neighborhood in New York City in the mid 1950s, an ethnic, blue-collar neighborhood. The musical explores the **rivalry** between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. The members of the Sharks, from Puerto Rico, are taunted by the Jets, a white gang. The young protagonist, Tony, a former **member** of the Jets and best friend of the gang's leader, Riff, falls in love with Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the **leader** of the Sharks. The dark theme, sophisticated music, extended dance **scenes**, and focus on social problems marked a turning point in American musical theatre. A 1961 musical film **adaptation**, directed by Robert Wise and Robbins, starred Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, Rita Moreno, George Chakiris and Russ Tamblyn. The film was **nominated** for eleven Academy Awards and won ten, including George Chakiris for Supporting Actor, Rita Moreno for Supporting Actress, and Best Picture.

**C. Did you like the song and this scene in general? Do you think the life of immigrants has changed over the years? Justify your opinion.**



*West Side Story* is a musical conceived by [Jerome Robbins](#) with music by [Leonard Bernstein](#), lyrics by [Stephen Sondheim](#), and a book by [Arthur Laurents](#). The text for the vocabulary exercise here was taken from this source. **(source Wikipedia)**

**Song credits (from wikipedia)**

"America" music by [Leonard Bernstein](#), lyrics by [Stephen Sondheim](#),

**first image credits (from wikimedia):** West Side Story, the original musical on Broadway

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