**“The Trees” by Rush**

The rock band *Rush* wrote the song “The Trees” as a metaphor for forced human

equality. Read the lyrics and discuss the metaphor as it exists in society today. Who might the oaks be? Who are the maples? What is the forest? Who are the creatures? Annotate this entire song—do more than just underline or highlight.

There is unrest in the forest

There is trouble with the trees

For the maples want more sunlight

And the oaks ignore their pleas.

The trouble with the maples

(And they're quite convinced they're right)

They say the oaks are just too lofty

And they grab up all the light.

But the oaks can't help their feelings

If they like the way they're made

And they wonder why the maples

Can't be happy in their shade.

There is trouble in the forest

And the creatures all have fled

As the maples scream "Oppression!"

And the oaks just shake their heads

So the maples formed a union

And demanded equal rights

"The oaks are just too greedy

We will make them give us light."

Now there's no more oak oppression

For they passed a noble law

And the trees are all kept equal

By hatchet, axe, and saw