

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Willie Nelson: The Red-Headed Stranger of Country Music

### Short Answer Key

1. Possible Answer: Willie Nelson's early exposure to gospel, folk, and country music influenced his musical journey by providing him with a diverse musical foundation. These influences shaped his unique style and songwriting, allowing him to blend different genres and create a distinctive sound that resonated with a wide audience.
2. Possible Answer: One of Willie Nelson's famous songs mentioned in the passage is "Always on My Mind." The song's theme revolves around regret and the desire to make amends in a relationship. It expresses deep emotions and a longing to show love and care.
3. Possible Answer: The outlaw country movement was significant in Willie Nelson's career as it allowed him to break free from the constraints of mainstream Nashville country music. It emphasized artistic freedom, authenticity, and a rejection of the polished Nashville sound. Nelson's music in this movement was characterized by raw honesty and a return to country music's roots.
4. Possible Answer: Willie Nelson has used his fame and music to support important social and environmental causes by co-founding Farm Aid, an annual charity concert that raises funds and awareness for family farmers. He has also been an advocate for issues like marijuana legalization and biodiesel fuel. His dedication to these causes reflects his commitment to making a positive impact on society.
5. Possible Answer: "On the Road Again" is one of Willie Nelson's signature songs because it encapsulates his life as a touring musician. The song's lyrics convey the excitement and challenges of life on the road, which was a significant part of Nelson's career. It became an anthem for touring musicians and a reflection of Nelson's enduring love for performing live.

