

Name _____

Writing • Description

Key Features of a Description

- creates a vivid mental picture
- imagery may appeal to the five senses
- uses precise words and vivid adjectives

Swing Music

Swing grew out of jazz music, and in the 1930s and 1940s it was as popular as could be. A top-flight swing band might have twenty or twenty-five musicians in it, playing trumpets, trombones, clarinets, saxophones, a piano, and drums. Just imagine the sound!

The name *swing* says it all. Swing music swings. It has a fast tempo and a syncopated rhythm. When you hear swing music, you just can't sit still—you have to get up and dance. In the 1940s swing dancers were called “jitterbugs” because they jumped and hopped and twisted all over the dance floor. A male swing dancer often picks up his partner and swings her over his head or across his shoulders.

Swing music is still around. Its popularity faded during World War II because most musicians were men, and most men joined the military. The types of popular music that came later, such as bebop and rock and roll, were made by smaller bands—often just three or four musicians.

But swing music never died. One of the greatest swing bandleaders, Glenn Miller, died in 1944, but the Glenn Miller Orchestra still performs across America and Europe. Modern dance competitions always feature swing. The 1990s saw a huge revival in swing music, with brand new swing bands forming and recording.

1. Read the description. What is this passage describing?

2. Underline two sentences that contain vivid details.