

## Pop Music and its “Problems”

Take about five minutes and write a response to this question: When do you think popular music started dealing in sex, drugs, and rock and roll (some say a euphemism for sex)?

After we are done, you will work through the following questions for group work:

- Are there references to sex, or sexual behavior? Where are they?
- What’s Johnson’s take on women? Where do you find evidence (in the lyrics) for your take?
- What do you make of Smith’s love of “gin”? A good, bad or indifferent thing?
- What do these songs say about the 1920s and 1930s, in general, do you think?
- **Key Question:** Do you see the referents here, booze, sex, infidelity, at play in contemporary lyrics? Where?