

After watching the movie, *Mr. Holland's Opus*, answer the following questions. You may type your responses directly on this document. Add your name as a header and save it on your student drive as *Mr. Holland's Opus*.

1. When Mr. Holland asks his student, Gertrude, to "Play the sunset," what did he mean? How did this change the way that she played afterward?
2. Public schools in the United States are subject to periodic and, in some areas, chronic financial crises. This grew worse for most school districts in the late 1980s and early 1990s. If you were on the school board and there was simply not enough money to run the schools, which programs would you cut and in what order would you cut them? Explain your reasons.
3. What does it say about our priorities that one of the richest nations in the world cannot afford arts and music education in the schools?
4. Mr. Holland started teaching in the early 1960s and was laid off in the early 1990s. During the 30 years that he taught school, the United States went through many changes. Some of these changes are portrayed in film clips interspersed throughout the film. Can you name some of these events and briefly describe what they did to the fabric of American society? Did they appear to have any effect on Mr. Holland? What were the filmmakers trying to tell us by interspersing the footage showing upheavals in American life among the other events in the film?
5. What is the reason for music education? Is it because music education trains children so that they can succeed in other areas or is it because as human beings, we all need to be able to express ourselves artistically?