

“Completing the Picture”

Suggested Response Topics



1. What group of workers on the transcontinental railroad haven't been well recognized for their contributions?
2. According to the suggestions in this opera, name at least two reasons why the Chinese workers might not have been included in the famous historical photograph of the Golden Spike.
3. Suggest a reason (from your own imagination) why there are no known letters home to China from the Chinese railroad workers.
4. In what ways were dance and movement used to communicate feelings in the opera? Describe one of the scenes in which choreography (dance) was well used.
5. The repeated lines “Don’t be left out of the picture” and “Everybody’s got to be in the picture” are the central theme of this opera. How could you apply that theme in your life, or in modern life?

Write to our Resident Artists in the “Ask a Singer” box to continue discussion of any of these topics.