

# Red balloons



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

The song I chose to do my project on is the song 99 Red Balloons, by the artist Gabriel Kernel, also known as Nana. This was one of the songs in the class to make the point about how the war really affected the citizens and the countries themselves. The theme of this song is that overreacting right away is a bad thing. It can cause damage to you and to everything else around you. This song is representing the fact that the United States and the Soviet Union were caught up in the Cold War and it caused many problems.

The example in this song is that, what if a child let go of a balloon and it went over the Berlin Wall to the Soviet's side? Without deciding what it was, they blew up the whole country of Germany. This could have happened because of something so silly like a balloon. It also describes how unlucky the citizens of Germany are. They are in the middle of all of this. If something was thrown over the wall, or a balloon floated over it, their lives would have been ruined or they could have died because of it. The Soviet Union and the United States only thought about themselves.

They were waiting for some kind of spark in the war so they would know when to fight. The meaning of this whole song is that during the cold war, the Soviet Union and the United States were always at the brink of a nuclear war. This song explains a great story about what might have happened if something floated over the Berlin wall to the Soviet Union's side. In this song, the balloons are mistaken by the Soviets as some unidentified object in the sky. Their military springs into action, creating a big, useless war that destroys their city. This was all because a bunch of balloons.

The song ends on a hopeful note, when Nana sings the line " Eve found one more balloon. Think of you and let it fly," that part shows that hope still remains, despite all that was lost. A lot of people believe that this was a song about protest, but in an interview with Nana, she explained that the song was only meant to be a place to lighten the atmosphere of fear that the Cold War was bringing to Germany during the time she wrote it. This song makes me feel really sad about the way the two superpowers would have just destroyed their city like this and kill all of their innocent civilians.

The minute they say these unidentified objects coming their way, they immediately shot and blew up their city. I feel awful for the poor families who could not do anything or escape from harm's way. There was always a threat of nuclear war looming in the air. People who lived through the cold war were always at a risk of nuclear war breaking out. Children had frequent drills. They were taught what to do in case an atomic bomb went off. People must have been living in days filled with fear. The United States tried to have a period of détente which lasted for a while, but it did not end the war. When I first heard the song, it made me sad that a couple of kids could have caused that much destruction by letting go some balloons. I am very thankful that I did not have to go through what they went through for over 44 years. Ready to launch a surprise nuclear attack to them and their allies. They had a new alert system called the RYAN that provided important information to them, like warning before the attack comes. Two years later in 1983, the year the song 99 Red Balloons came out, the Soviet Union's RYAN tracker spotted something.

Some observers dismissed the alert and the war scare but others were not sure. The latter view seems to have been closer to the truth. These developments, along with the new United States management's tough stance toward the USSR, prompted Soviet officials and much of the populace to voice concern over the prospect of a US nuclear attack. But there really was no attack that was necessary to deal with. Like in the song 99 Red Balloons, they overreacted again, but this time to something that was not even there.