

Enhancing Learning With Music



The Value Of Music

Music has been such an important part of getting through lockdown. While class singing poses, what we hope to be, temporary challenges, there are other

ways in which we can ensure that children have the chance to continue to build an appreciation and love of a variety of music.

We can show that we value music and keep the profile high in our schools. English is a great example of a subject where we can enhance teaching and learning with music whilst answering the requirements of the curriculum. **See suggestions for resources in more detail over the page.**

Examples

1. '...read easily, fluently and with good understanding'
2. 'Acquire a wide vocabulary...'
3. 'write... for a range of contexts, purposes and styles'

These aims are easily enhanced by introducing music, songs and lyrics.

1

READING

Rhythm, rhyme and repetition help children to read fluently. All of these are easily found in song lyrics. For now, explore these in rhythm, chanting, clapping or with small percussive instruments.

2

VOCABULARY

Listen to and study song lyrics to encourage more exciting, engaging words. Discuss examples of simple language and compare with more advanced phrases from a range of musical styles.

3

WRITING

Bring report writing to life with simple rhythmic ostinati or use 'loops' on (wipeable) iPads for a radio or podcast ready finish. Use music to help set a scene for story ideas and characters.



Geographical Features

Listening to and discussing music associated with rivers, volcanoes etc... can encourage a wider vocabulary.



History

Add context to historical themes with contemporary music and composers.



Listen to music and respond through art.

Children can illustrate a character or paint to set a scene for a story, in response to what they hear.

Listening to music together provides a shared experience. This will help with well-being and give the children a sense of belonging within, what may be, a new peer group.



Sing Up is a haven for lyrics. Charanga and Music Express have music banks with a broad range of styles. Youtube, Spotify; the access to a variety of music is easy. Too much? Here are some suggestions:

1. **Reading with rhyme, rhythm and repetition.**

Read and listen to stories with song accompaniments such as Julia Donaldson's series and 'Puff the Magic Dragon'. Sing Up has the 'Doo-bi-doo song' and others with lots of scope for a phonics focus. 'The Owl and the Pussycat' and other traditional poems and rhymes can also be found set to music.

2. **Vocabulary in lyrics.**

Listen to songs and study inspiring lyrics to generate ideas.

E.g. Today it is sunny < 'There's a bright, golden haze on the meadow'. (*Oh what a Beautiful Morning*)

Swap out the words to suit your writing = 'there's a vivid, scarlet jewel in the rose bed'

'there's a glowing, silver mist in the orchard'

'there's a dark, steely shadow in the churchyard'

A few poetic songs.

What a Wonderful World - Thiele/Weiss (Louis Armstrong) *From a Distance* - Julie Gold (Bett Midler)

I Hope You Dance - Leanne Womack

Our House - Madness

L-O-V-E - Nat King Cole (Could lead to acrostic poems)

Cole Porter has a wealth of fabulous, cheeky lines.

3. **Writing can be stimulated, enhanced and celebrated with music.**

'BBC 10 Pieces' has some fabulous pieces and suggested writing activities.

'The Carnival of the Animals' is a good place to start for different characteristics.

The Aquarium could stimulate ideas, setting the scene for an underwater story.

If you wish to evoke a particular mood for writing, film music is a great place to start.

Use lyrics as a template E.g. Use 'Don't Worry Be Happy' Bobby McFerrin, encouraging children to write their own rhyming couplet. Older children could follow this up, singing and recording at home.

For report writing styles, use iPad > GarageBand > New project > loops > make sound choices > record.

New track > Choose audio mic and record reports, news, weather and film or music reviews.

SUGGESTED MUSIC FOR A RIVER THEME.

Song sheets, by Music Express are packed with appropriate vocabulary for many subjects and themes. E.g. 'A River's Tale', also try 'The Modau', 'The Swan', and while singing maybe tricky, a group softly humming 'Shenandoah' would be quite magical.

All of the above are suggestions but if you have music that inspires you personally, your own passion and enthusiasm will transfer to the children. Equally, asking new class members about their favourite music is a great ice-breaker, helping to welcome them in for the new term. liz.roziermusic@icloud.com