BJB2: Welcome to today's Learning From Lyrics!

BJB2: we usually start all the discussions with introductions.

BJB2: Please let Johnathan know where you are located and what interests you in the topic

FredK: I am a literacy tutor in SE Oklahoma

JoseMH: I am an Instructional Technology student at Texas A&M Kingsville

LindseySt: I am a student teacher in Southern CA

JohnathanC: Thanks everyone, I teach 7/8 social studies in Central NY

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a HelpDesk volunteers and I lead a math education and technology discussion here. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

HeatherAB: I'm Heather Burleson, a middle school teacher in Texas.

BJB2 hands the virtual floor over to Johnathan

JohnathanC: Hope everyone has a good media player and internet connection...

JohnathanC: Since February is the month of Valentines day, let's start with some music...

JohnathanC: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hbpb5ffcwO8

BJB2 smiles. Good one, John!

JohnathanC: less is more!

DavidWe smiles

HeatherAB sighs with pleasure!

DavidWe smiles

JohnathanC: Youtube is an excellent resource for finding music videos

BJB2 nods...as you've graciously demoed during your discussions!

LindseySt: I definitely agree

JohnathanC: There will be a musical conclusion this evening

JohnathanC: Anyone currently using songs in the classroom?

BJB2: mostly just the ones you show us, John

BJB2 . o O (you're such a wonderful role model   )

JohnathanC: Ok Let me tell you about our current project

JohnathanC: My students design Memorials for deserving people and or events

JohnathanC: They must also select a tribute or dedication song to be played in class during the presentation

JohnathanC: Should we look at pictures of finished projects?

HeatherAB: Please!

LindseySt: Yes please

BJB2: do you find that your students have a wide range of experience with music?

JoseMH: Yes

JohnathanC: You will need to scroll down to 2007 Memorials and please note (pun intended) the musical selection...

JohnathanC: http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/gallery.htm

JohnathanC: Click on the name of each memorial to see the photos

JohnathanC: Each student must introduce the tribute song and explain how/why it "connects" to their person or event.

BJB2: how do the students find the songs?

JohnathanC: If they can't on their own, we brainstorm in class

BJB2 nods

LindseySt: Are there guidelines in regards to what is considered "acceptable" music selections for the project?

JohnathanC: students bring me the songs in advance

JohnathanC: no gratuitous profanity but one or two words if they serve a purpose are allowed

JoseMH: What made you use music?

JohnathanC: Forces students to identify a central theme or belief of the person being memorialized

JohnathanC: So how does John Mayer's song connect to Oskar Schindler (according to my student)

JoseMH: Yes, music stirs the emotions

JohnathanC: Most people familiar with the song?

JoseMH: I am not

LindseySt: I am not familiar with the song

HeatherAB: nor am I

DavidWe knows some of John Mayer's songs

BJB2 is sure that Johnathan will enlighten us

JohnathanC:
http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/johnmayer/waitingontheworldtochange.html

BJB2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXWXQeHCWpo

HeatherAB seems to have a very slow connection tonight

JohnathanC: let's focus on the chorus and consider my question...

JohnathanC: So we keep waiting

JohnathanC: Waiting on the world to change

JohnathanC: We keep on waiting

JohnathanC: Waiting on the world to change

BJB2 thinks we're still waiting

JohnathanC: Waiting on the group to respond

JoseMH: What change are we waiting for?

BJB2: respect for other cultures and ideas?

JoseMH: It'll never happen

HeatherAB: for people to take responsibility for one another?

FredK: Change starts with me

JohnathanC: My student explained that Schindler's workers were safe in his factory and "waiting for their world to change"

JohnathanC: But there were other views expressed by my students in the audience...

HeatherAB: ah!

JoseMH: History has a tendency to repeat itself

JohnathanC: One suggested that Schindler did not wait for the world to change he took action

LindseySt: I like that analogy the students made

JoseMH: You're right, we can't wait, we must be proactive

JohnathanC: Then we discussed the intent of John Mayer...is he really waiting or is he saying what are you waiting for?

HeatherAB: what did your kids come up with?

BJB2: sounds like you're treating the lyrics as poetry which you're analyzing. Very cool.

JohnathanC: They thought he was being slightly sarcastic and was saying take action though he does seem resigned in the lyrics

HeatherAB: hmm

HeatherAB: they're middle school?

JohnathanC: yes, I suggested we write one more stanza that clearly says don't wait

JoseMH: Good idea for critical thinking

HeatherAB: do you have that stanza to share?

JohnathanC: We will work on it after presentations end

JohnathanC: for next time

HeatherAB smiles and nods

JohnathanC: How about the Harriet Tubman song selection, that was a result of brainstorming

HeatherAB feels her age is showing...who's Kelly Clarkson?

BJB2: http://www.seeklyrics.com/lyrics/Kelly-Clarkson/Breakaway.html

HeatherAB: thx

JohnathanC: American Idol winner

JohnathanC: Guess being around middle schoolers keeps me in touch with pop culture plus two teenagers at home Dare I ask is anyone familiar with MySpace?

BJB2 smiles and nods

HeatherAB smiles

HeatherAB: *that* I know about

BJB2 . o O (mostly the controversy)

LindseySt: I feel the song is very appropriate "Take a chance

LindseySt: Make a change

LindseySt: And breakaway"

JohnathanC: Yes!

LindseySt: It is exactly what Harriet Tubman did

JohnathanC: A++

JohnathanC: Gold star

JohnathanC: Smiley face

LindseySt: Yey

BJB2 cheers for Lindsey

HeatherAB hunts for the box of gold stars

JohnathanC: Another aspect of these projects is to try and connect the musicians with the students and to share the students work with people outside the classroom. So I created a MySpace and if you scroll down through the comments look for Montgomery Gentry they left a message for my student

JohnathanC: ready...

BJB2 nods

HeatherAB holds on to her keyboard

JohnathanC: http://www.myspace.com/learningfromlyrics

BJB2: We're proud of you! Thanks for using our song "Speed" in your Dale Earnhardt tribute.

DavidWe smiles

BJB2: how do you contact the musicians, Johnathan?

JohnathanC: My student was so excited

LindseySt: Wow... that is really nice

JohnathanC: email their web sites

HeatherAB: I can imagine!

BJB2: excellent.

JohnathanC: Having the photos at my web site gives them something tangible to see and react to

JoseMH: Very interesting site

JohnathanC: Need to focus on my musical conclusion so bookmark for later viewing

HeatherAB: done

JohnathanC: Writing about songs also helps to develop higher order thinking

JohnathanC: Here's an explanation to read written by a fellow teacher..

JohnathanC: http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/letitbe.html

JohnathanC: Songs make you to think and feel...

DavidWe agrees

HeatherAB nods

JohnathanC: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oZYqAeIdYk

DavidWe: Have you heard the new Bob Seger album, Johnathan?

JohnathanC: not yet

DavidWe: Remarkable song (anti-war)

DavidWe: Song called "No More"

JohnathanC: I'll check it out

DavidWe looks to find the lyrics

DavidWe: Want to see some of them?

DavidWe: It was forty years ago when I was young/And the jungle not the desert heard the guns/Someone said they had a secret plan/And the rest of us were told to understand

BJB2: we're listening to Let It Be at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oZYqAeIdYk

JohnathanC: thanks everyone

DavidWe has the CD with "Let It Be" in the CD player

BJB2 applauds. Thank YOU, Johnathan!

BJB2: The next Learning From Lyrics is March 20

HeatherAB: Thank you, Johnathan.

JohnathanC: welcome

JoseMH: Thanks for your insights Jonathan

LindseySt: Thank you, Johnathan

BJB2 waves goodnight

FredK: What I followed was different and excellent

JohnathanC: thanks for stopping by

JohnathanC: bye