

Title of Session: Learning From Lyrics

Moderator: Johnathan Chase

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Room: Learning From Lyrics Group

BJB2: Laura, is this your first visit to this discussion?

LauraRa: Yes it is.

BJB2: great...then let's start with introductions

JohnathanC: ladies first

BJB2: I'm a retired communication and art teacher in Pennsylvania

BJB2 . o O (I need to move to Ohio)

LauraRa: I am student teaching by Houston, TX at an elementary school. Right now I'm with fourth next second

BJB2 . o O (easier to type)

BJB2: so an elementary focus for you

LauraRa: yes

LauraRa: I like the older grades though

BJB2 hands the virtual floor over to John

JohnathanC: what subjects do you cover ?

LauraRa: well we do blocks and I cover science and math

LauraRa: or team teaching actually

LauraRa: It's much better and easy to focus on what needs to be done

JohnathanC: any ideas/activities for incorporating songs

LauraRa: Science would probably be the easiest due to water cycle ...

LauraRa: Math you can do. I see that students have a difficult time remembering their

multiplications

LauraRa: What songs would you recommend that are "up to date" for fourth graders?

JohnathanC: good question

JohnathanC: my background is social studies/history grades 7/8

LauraRa: I remember them from second to fourth grade. That is the only way that I know my multiplications.

JohnathanC: let me think for a minute

LauraRa: Oh ... how do the older students deal with you using songs? Do you use them?

JohnathanC: I use them to cover "content" while blending in character ed

JohnathanC: character ed is really suitable for any level

BJB2 agrees

LauraRa: What is character ed?

JohnathanC: focusing on values... empathy, tolerance, social responsibility...

LauraRa: Ohh .. okay. I see

JohnathanC: also called social and emotional learning

LauraRa: What kinds of songs are they?

JohnathanC: I'll share some samples with you

LauraRa: okay ...

BJB2: when John shows you a url, Laura, hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click

LauraRa: Alrighty

JohnathanC: We are going over to another site called Classroom 2.0 where I have a profile

JohnathanC: It is a social network for teachers

LauraRa: okay

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Jeff

JeffC waves

JeffC is still helping one of Kim Greene's students... wanted to check in and see what's happenin' though.

JohnathanC: Click on the video to watch it and when finished click on the link posted below it to check out the assignment

LauraRa: You have some really interesting project and pictures on your site!!

JohnathanC: thanks

JohnathanC: <http://www.classroom20.com/video/how-to-save-a-life>

BJB2 checks to see if Laura got the url

LauraRa left the room (signed off).

LauraRa joined the room.

BJB2: oops

BJB2: hold down ctrl when you click

BJB2: <http://www.classroom20.com/video/how-to-save-a-life>

LauraRa: I did but it wouldn't allow pop ups..

BJB2: ctrl usually overrides pop ups. Did you turn off your pop up blocker?

LauraRa: Yes ... sometimes it refreshes the page so that's why

BJB2 nods.

BJB2: did you get the video?

LauraRa: Yes...

LauraRa: I have listened to this song before but never thought of it like that

LauraRa: I guess it depends on what you have in mind and what you are looking for.

BJB2 smiles. Stick with John and you'll never listen to a song the same way again!

JohnathanC: Did you check out the student writing

LauraRa: Not yet ..

LauraRa: Where is it at?

BJB2: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/bystander.htm>

LauraRa: okay ... looking

BJB2 loves the Legend of the Starfish

LauraRa: That's pretty deep.

LauraRa: I like the older kids because they go more in depth.

LauraRa: Sometimes with younger kids they want you to tell them what to think or say.

BJB2 nods

LauraRa: You have to make that ground that there is no wrong answer to get those thoughts out.

JohnathanC: true

LauraRa: So I see how social studies would be great to use music in to go deeper for them to teach themselves.

JohnathanC: exactly

LauraRa: What about math? Just number songs?

LauraRa: And science?

BJB2 . o O (or use meter, measure, rhythm, etc for math)

BJB2 thinks John is looking for examples for math and science

LauraRa: True ... things usually stick to kids when there is a beat and rhythm to something

BJB2: have kids write a rap about a word problem and how to solve it

JohnathanC: like this

JohnathanC: <http://faculty.washington.edu/crowther/Misc/Songs/links.shtml>

LauraRa: Honestly, I give you props John because teachers usually take the easy way of doing things. You have to learn to be passionate in order to go further.

BJB2 smiles...perfect link, John!

BJB2 . o O (and John does model passionate!)

JohnathanC: An organization!...

JohnathanC: <http://www.science-groove.org/SSA/>

LauraRa: He sure does

JohnathanC: math...

LauraRa: Wow .. I didn't think that people were actually that into doing songs for teaching.

JohnathanC: <http://www.math.utep.edu/Faculty/lesser/Mathemusician.html>

JohnathanC: <http://www.songsforteaching.com/mathsongs.htm>

LauraRa: I say that because I don't see it much like it use to be used.

LauraRa: I have added songs for teaching in a few created unused lessons for school

BJB2: wow, you should contact Lesser and invite him to be a guest speaker, John...since we've got most of Texas as TI members

LauraRa: Honestly, I would not consider using songs unless I had to

BJB2: why is that, Laura?

BJB2 . o O (kids love music)

JohnathanC: what!?

LauraRa: Well, it's just the last thing on my mind. True .. even the magic school bus intro song

BJB2 hands John a tranquilizer

LauraRa: Honestly speaking, like before I came to this chat

JohnathanC: ok

BJB2 hopes Laura has had a change in her thinking as a result of this discussion!

LauraRa: Also, having to find the right one is hard ... you find good ones when you don't need them

JohnathanC: It's more about activities where the students can introduce songs to the class

LauraRa: Actually I have changed my mind and see that music could be used to actually reach students.

JohnathanC: I'll share some activities with you...let the students do the work

LauraRa: It's kind of like a book, the music is read to them and they think of the interpretation

JohnathanC: Have the students present on a topic and ask them to include a song during the presentation that goes along with the topic

JohnathanC: music makes the presentation more meaningful

JohnathanC: Are you familiar with Taylor Swift?

LauraRa: Good idea ... problem is making that time and finding the subject to put that in

LauraRa: (just an idea BUT not impossible)

LauraRa: Yes

LauraRa: I am

JohnathanC: her song change?

LauraRa: yeah ..

JohnathanC: Here's the video and below it is a link to numerous students projects

JohnathanC: <http://www.classroom20.com/video/change-1>

LauraRa: alrighty

LauraRa: You really never think of what the songs are really saying until you read and

look deeper.

LauraRa: This is really impressive stuff.

BJB2 nods solemnly to Laura

JohnathanC: yes critical thinking and.....feeling!

LauraRa: Yah .. students to relate to the words

JohnathanC: asking students to connect their music to your topics makes them think

LauraRa: honestly, I feel that you can hit harder when you teach social studies due to it being more intense than other subjects or even with language arts

JohnathanC: may have a point

LauraRa: The advantage you have is being able to focus on one subject

BJB2: but the students still have to do writing and thinking that can apply to many different disciplines....especially language arts

LauraRa: plus, that subject is the more intense one because it deals with historical feelings

LauraRa: True

JohnathanC: I do deal with a lot of social issues too

LauraRa: Well, yes it is in the same boat ... social

LauraRa: many feelings and thoughts are included

BJB2: it's a way to differentiate lessons and use different skills/intelligences

LauraRa: how one includes them makes all the difference

LauraRa: Honestly, I have been trying my hardest to not make activities so old fashioned ... more of that hands-on and getting students to think is what I try for. I like being known as the student teacher who does more

LauraRa: many of my students get excited to just know that I'm doing science

LauraRa: I know see that not only can you go hands-on but you can go further

JohnathanC: that's good that you are so motivated

LauraRa: There is a way to tap into their minds and get to them'

LauraRa: Well I just like it that students want to be there, they want "me" to teach them

JohnathanC: There are a number of science teachers and discussions at classroom 2.0

LauraRa: looking up information is time consuming but well worth it when others give you props for what you do

JohnathanC: many elementary teachers

LauraRa: Honestly, I am considering going to middle school. Not just yet but in the near future

JohnathanC: <http://www.classroom20.com/profiles/members/?q=science>

LauraRa: I like older kids ... just seems a bit easier to reach them

BJB2 . o O (middle school kids have their challenges!)

LauraRa: Seriously, you have changed my mind and made me look deeper on what music can really do.

BJB2 winks at John

BJB2: that's great, Laura!

LauraRa: When you put the link for music I honestly thought of old school music .. I was wrong. Even today's music says a lot

LauraRa: I would have never imagined

BJB2 pokes John. He's in shock?!

JohnathanC: listening

BJB2 smiles. Our time is almost up, John. Any pithy comments?

LauraRa: yep ... hearing music is one thing but listening can do wonders

BJB2: any last questions, Laura?

JohnathanC: think both levels of teaching can be rewarding

JohnathanC: find what makes you happy

LauraRa: true

BJB2: the next Learning From Lyrics discussion will be on March 17

JohnathanC: and be open to change

JohnathanC: which you seem to be

BJB2 agrees with change

LauraRa: I am ...

LauraRa: I like the whole trying new things ... don't want to be like every other teacher

LauraRa: more like stand out and be noticed ...

JohnathanC: individuality

LauraRa: Looking for those activities do sorta tire me out but they are well worth it in the end

LauraRa: Not only for myself ... but making your team look and be better

JohnathanC: great attitude

LauraRa: To be better for the kids

JohnathanC: you will go far

JohnathanC: thanks for attending

LauraRa: Thankx .. I sure am trying. Plus, It's just student teaching

BJB2: Thanks, John, for leading this discussion.

LauraRa: Well thank you for all that you have done

JohnathanC: that's where it all begins

LauraRa: True ...

JohnathanC: bye all

LauraRa: Wish you the best and continue at what you do best !!

LauraRa: Bye