

Title of Session: Learning From Lyrics

Moderator: Johnathan Chase

Title of File: 20090421lyrics

Date: April 21, 2009

Room: Learning From Lyrics Group

BJB2: This discussion will start as soon as John gets here

OlgaM: ok

JohnathanC joined the room.

OlgaM: hi John

JohnathanC: hey

BJB2: and there he is! Hi, John!

KendayIC: Hi

BJB2: John, would you like to start with introductions?

JohnathanC: middle school social studies central NY

BJB2: please tell John where you are located and what you teach

BJB2 . o O (or hope to teach)

ShawnL: 3rd Grade, Falls Church, VA

KendayIC: 1st grade, Falls church, VA

OlgaM: high school special ed Cleveland OH

JeffC joined the room.

OlgaM: hello jeff

RayFi: masters student for elementary, New York

BJB2: welcome, Jeff. We're just doing intros

JeffC waves. I'm on Tapped In Helpdesk, living in Forest Grove Oregon.

JohnathanC: was everyone here last month?

OlgaM: no

RayFi: no

ShawnL: I wasn't

KendaylC: no

JohnathanC: ok

BJB2 raises her hand....I was ;-)

JohnathanC: I tend to focus on lyrics with older students

BJB2: how's the Teacher Appreciation Week project going?

JohnathanC: you read my mind

BJB2 . o O (helpdesk requirement ;-)

JohnathanC: before I share that...

JohnathanC: regardless of age/grade level songs are excellent for introducing elements of character education in any subject area

JohnathanC: is anyone using songs now, and how so?

OlgaM: no I'm not

ShawnL: I'm not either

RayFi: no

BJB2 . o O (John will inspire you all!)

KendaylC: yes I am

OlgaM: I wanted to introduce them to my students because they enjoy rapping and dueling each other

JohnathanC: ok

KendaylC: I use them for content, fluency in reading, and creativeness for students as assignments

JohnathanC: everyone on DSL/ high speed connections?

KendaylC: yes

ShawnL: yes

OlgaM: yes

RayFi: yes

JohnathanC: want to share an assignment Kendayl?

KendaylC: sure...

KendaylC: We are currently doing money in math and have recently reviewed characteristics and facts of coins. We make a list together of them and I broke the students into groups and each group was able to choose a song tune that was familiar or use one from something more "modern" ie: Hannah Montana (twinkle twinkle, you are my sunshine, itsy bitsy spider, etc) . The requirements are that they must include at least 2 facts/characteristics of each coin in their song and then we will present at the end of the week.

OlgaM: great idea...does it help them retain the info?

KendaylC: It allows to them work cooperatively while being creative and learn the content material

KendaylC: Yes!

JohnathanC: great activity

ShawnL: Do you model it for them?

KendaylC: They sing songs all the time

KendaylC: Yes, we have done it a few times this year, so by now they are familiar

KendaylC: but I always model slightly before doing it every time as a refresher

OlgaM: special ed kids need these techniques because my students have memory issues

JohnathanC: music is a great tool for memory activities

KendaylC: I agree.. my ESOL kids love this!

JohnathanC: teacher appreciation...

JohnathanC: I have created an arts in education MySpace...

JohnathanC: last month I asked for comments...

JohnathanC: about teachers who made a difference in your life..

JohnathanC: Teacher Appreciation day is May 5th

JohnathanC: So hopefully the collection of comments will grow

JohnathanC: Want you to read through the comments and see if you notice

JohnathanC: a common theme

JohnathanC: what do adults remember most about their teachers...

JohnathanC: and how can this inform and shape our approach to teaching on any grade level?

JohnathanC: ready?....

OlgaM: yes

RayFi: yes

JohnathanC: Start at the top when you get down to the March 12th comment that's where they started..

JohnathanC: When the song stops playing click on the CSN video (lower left side of page) for some more music!

KendaylC: Well for starters a lot of the responses seem to be from musical artists... overall people said that they remember the encouragement, love, dedication, and passion that their teachers gave them and instilled in them

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

JohnathanC: Teaching in a state that is so obsessed with learning standards...

JohnathanC: and standardized testing

JohnathanC: and school report cards

JohnathanC: It is good to remind ourselves that test scores are just one measure of what

a child "learns"

JohnathanC: the longer I teach the more I focus on life skills

JohnathanC: songs have a way of touching both the heart and mind

OlgaM: teachers start teaching to the test to meet the standards...

JohnathanC: what do our students really need to know to be successful

JohnathanC: empathy, tolerance perseverance

JohnathanC: interdependence

JohnathanC: yes

OlgaM: social skills

ShawnL: students also need to feel a sense of belonging and assurance in the classroom

JohnathanC: yes! content and skills are important.....but we must not forget social and emotional skills

JohnathanC: that's what those comments seem to focus on

JohnathanC: how about some videos?

OlgaM: you can't function in society without having respect for others their beliefs and opinions

JohnathanC: yes!

KendayIC: We can teach our kids how to take a test but more importantly their education is based on them being able to take their knowledge that they actually understand and take it into the real world.. it's inevitable that we will not remember everything; however, they more opportunities we give our students to express their learning and knowledge through the arts so that they can be a part of their learning, why not?

JohnathanC: bravo!

OlgaM: they need to function in society and give back to their communities...this is what's important to teach

JohnathanC: Let's look at a few videos and I will share some of my students writing

JohnathanC: the next link is over at Classroom 2.0

KendaylC: Especially when music has become our society...

KendaylC: ok

JohnathanC: You should consider creating your own profile sometime it is a social network for educators

OlgaM: they also need to learn that their actions effect everyone and everything in a positive or negative manner...that choice is up to them

JohnathanC: yes!...after you watch the video read the text below and follow the links to see student works

KendaylC: Which video? or any of the videos?

JohnathanC: <http://www.classroom20.com/video/every-day>

OlgaM: there is a delay on my end....my computer isn't fast enough I'll try to keep up

BJB2: Olga, the urls will be in your transcript and you can check them later if you need to

OlgaM: I found the video page I'm checking out now

JohnathanC: Here is a direct link to the students writing...

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

KendaylC: very empowering

OlgaM: children do feel invisible sometimes and we must notice them

KendaylC: you can see how it lets the students think differently and express what they think and what they know in a new light

OlgaM: I agree

OlgaM: this is a great way to use their artist skills

JohnathanC: another activity using the song "The Kid" examples are from grades 7 through 12

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/thekid.htm>

AngelD: I know I missed a lot, but how can I know what's going on?

BJB2: Maybe Olga can share her transcript with you, Angel

AngelD: That sound great!

JohnathanC: Songs help to bring out student emotions and creativity

BJB2: John is sharing ways that he uses song lyrics to build character and encourage creativity

AngelD: I definitely agree with that Johnathan. Especially teenagers. I feel like music connects with them in a way that sometimes adults cannot.

JohnathanC: What grade do you think this is...

OlgaM: there are things that children can't learn in the classroom that go beyond books...music helps them express themselves

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/essay19.html>

BJB2: John leads the Learning From Lyrics discussion once a month. The next one will be on May 19.

BJB2: it would be great if you all can return in May and tell John how you've used what he's shared with you today

JohnathanC: any guesses on the grade of the student who wrote the essay linked above

OlgaM: 5th grade

KendaylC: 7th grade?

RayFi: 6th

OlgaM: I could be wrong

JohnathanC: the grade level for the link essay19

ShawnL: 6th

JohnathanC: the answer is...

JohnathanC: 5th

KendaylC: wow

AngelD: Wow Olga!!!!

JohnathanC: one final video before we go

OlgaM: so who's right?

BJB2: Olga, the student was in 5th grade

BJB2 . o O (so you were correct)

JohnathanC: the words that appear in this video could be used by students in their writing

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

BJB2: sometimes educators need that reminder too

BJB2: Thanks, John, for another fabulous discussion.

KendayIC: Thank you so much Johnathan

JohnathanC: don't forget to check out Classroom 2.0

ShawnL: Thank you

KendayIC: will do!

RayFi: thank you

OlgaM: thanks john

JohnathanC: My profile has more stuff...

JohnathanC: <http://www.classroom20.com/profile/JohnathanChase>

OlgaM: the info was valuable

AngelD: Sorry I was late, but got the video, thanks

JohnathanC: Free to make your own profile and many elementary educators to network with

BJB2 waves goodnight

OlgaM: goodnight

JohnathanC: bye