

Title of Session: Learning From Lyrics

Moderator: Johnathan Chase

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Room: Learning From Lyrics Group

BJB2: Welcome to today's Learning From Lyrics, everyone!

BJB2: as usual, we'll start with introductions, please

JohnathanC: 7/8 social studies in Central New York

VanessaG: Hi, I'm Vanessa from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and I'm pursuing a degree in middle school Math education

JenniferA4: 5th grade multiple subject in Southern California

MarciaBa: Not a teacher - observing this for a grad school class. Love music, and was intrigued by this topic.

RaulRe: Texas A&M University- Kingsville looking for my bachelor's in Music Education.

MichaelD1: Terrific. I'm a music teacher.

RaulRe: What do you teach Michael?

MichaelD1: I teach instrumental music, grades 5-12.

RaulRe: Woodwinds and Brass? Percussion? or all in general

SusanR: I am a K to 8 Occasional Teacher and I moderate the K to 3+ Great Resources sessions here at TI

MichaelD1: I'm working on a principal certification. This is part of my assignment, so I thought I would be apart of something I love.

BJB2: I teach remedial communication in south central PA

BJB2 . o O (and am on Tapped in Helpdesk)

MichaelD1: I'm in western NY

VanessaG: Raul and I are in the same computer literacy course at TAMUK

VanessaG: Tapped In is an assignment for us as well

JohnathanC: Last month I shared a DBQ essay assignment involving the U2 song "One" that my students were working on.

RaulRe: wow...I bet New York is thriving with the best Jazz anywhere.

MichaelD1: This is my first session of this type. How does this all work?

BJB2: fasten your seat belt, Michael!

BJB2: John leads a wonderful discussion

MichaelD1: Western NY -- right on the PA border, on Lake Erie.

JohnathanC: Quick review for those who were not here for the lyrics

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

JohnathanC: click and read please

JohnathanC: Thought we could talk about the song before I share the question and some student essays

JohnathanC: Any reactions to Bono's quote, the cartoon, MLK...?

BJB2 thinks everyone used up their thinking in the math discussion, John!

JohnathanC: I need at least one comment class before we can watch the video!

RaulRe: I think that the picture implies that it took something as big as 9/11 to make us realize that no matter what culture we are from, we are all equally affected by the actions of each other

VanessaG: Nice, Raul

RaulRe: any feedback?

LisaHa: Hi...I'm new to this, so it might take me some time to maneuver around

JohnathanC: Is it difficult to stay united in a pluralistic society under "normal" circumstances?

RaulRe: Johnny Cash sings this song

VanessaG: We seem to be united when we say the word, "American"

JohnathanC: Does prejudice rear its ugly head more easily when people are afraid?

BJB2: Lisa, all you need to do is 'listen' and give your two cents if so inclined

JohnathanC: WWII Internment camps

LisaHa: I'm concerned kids don't think "united" on a global level though

JohnathanC: difficult concept for some adults as well

BJB2 wonders if most kids think on an international level!

LisaHa: yeah...u r right

JohnathanC: To prepare my students for the essay assignment we watch the music video

JohnathanC: Dial up participants do your best with the url!

BJB2 . o O (all urls will be in your transcript if you are not able to access now)

VanessaG: Thanks BJB

LisaHa: Do kids think on an international level? I work with teenagers...for many of them if it isn't in a video game or downloadable to their IPOD, they don't think about it period!

JohnathanC: As you watch the video think about the theme or message of the song and how it might be visually represented in the images

JohnathanC: Here we go...

VanessaG: Now that I'm in college, I feel I'm exposed more to an international level of thinking

MichaelD1: But if they're playing a game, they are thinking.

MichaelD1: Maybe, we need to change.

JohnathanC: How so?

LisaHa: U R right to some extent Michael...kids' brains are different and we need to find better ways to tap into that...no pun intended:)_

MichaelD1: Well, with an iPod I can access international anything

JohnathanC: exposure is key to understanding

LisaHa: Any ideas on how to get administrators to buy into using IPOD as a learning tool? Most ban them from classrooms.

MichaelD1: Yes, and maybe what we consider exposure is done differently by others for their exposure

JenniferA4: I agree with Lisa, it seems so many of my students can only grasp what is happening in their personal lives. They don't seem to think too much about international events on their own.

JohnathanC: music can open the mind and heart

VanessaG: I feel that students, and myself included, see everything that is happening internationally on the television so often that you kind of become immune to the outside world.

RaulRe: the lyrics IN the music can open the mind and heart.

MichaelD1: Yes! it is global

VanessaG: very true Raul

MichaelD1: Music and lyrics

LisaHa: Right on!

JohnathanC: they have been accustomed to relating to music as a visual medium need to focus their attention on the words

VanessaG: Johnathan, was the video going to be introduced through the chatroom?

LisaHa: Personally, Bono's lyrics to so many of his songs could speak volumes to today's kids

JenniferA4: That's true, music can tap into some real feelings and can get kids to begin to think about real issues in a much more engaging way.

MichaelD1: So how can we use the music & lyrics to focus on global issues discussions? arts infusion.

JohnathanC: No, I just wanted to let the discussion go before I quieted the class and started the video

VanessaG: Oh okay, I see. Thank you :)

BJB2 . o O (John is keeping us in suspense!)

RaulRe: when you think of the catastrophes that happen around the globe...starting with all of the school attacks in the US, and the Students in Russia that were held hostage not too long ago, do you think kids not affected thought "wait a minute, that could be ME?"

JohnathanC: Michael it will become apparent shortly, and now without any further ado..

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

JohnathanC: click and watch

RaulRe: what key words can we use to search for the video?

JohnathanC: "one" mary j. blige

JohnathanC: I have it on DVD and it is much easier to show it in my classroom

JohnathanC: Were some able to view it?

JenniferA4: I was able to view it.

BJB2: me too

RaulRe: got it.

JohnathanC: Any thoughts on it visually with respect to the theme?

VanessaG: Thanks, that helped

JohnathanC: My students have some interesting analysis

JohnathanC: The original version of the song is sung by Bono himself and I do play that version before I show the video

LisaHa: I just watched it, but I had to copy and paste the link after sending it to the pasteboard...what a great video...the black and white effect works well

JohnathanC: is the duet significant

VanessaG: I've heard Bono's version many times and the lyrics have never hit me the way that they did tonight

LisaHa: same effect on me Vanessa!

JenniferA4: I thought that it was powerful, I have never really listened to the song in that way before

JohnathanC: Shall we look at some essays...r u ready for some reading?

LisaHa: I think this is a great way to hook the kids to talk about international relations and why the U

RaulRe: what age group are these students?

VanessaG: Yeah, some essays would be interesting

JohnathanC: 8th grade

JenniferA4: Reading some essays sounds great.

JohnathanC: Take a moment to digest the question, then scroll down through the essays

RaulRe: I'm up for some essays

LisaHa: OOPs....to finish that thought...to get them to understand why it is important for the US to give to other countries, especially when people are starving, dying, and being persecuted.

JohnathanC: I encourage my students to bring in outside examples in their essays and they never let me down...

JohnathanC: We'll talk in a little bit..

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

RaulRe: the US is a superpower...giving to those less fortunate than the people that dwell within this prosperous country is the humane thing to do.

LisaHa: Raul...u r right, but I don't think we do enough to get kids to see it...to feel it

LisaHa: boy...I sound like a hippie, huh?

VanessaG: I agree, we simply tell our children about the world around us and the suffering, yet I don't think we involve them enough and show them how to get involved with the guidance of adults. you know?

VanessaG: Through music, I think we can get through to kids nowadays...take Live 8 for example, that definitely opened my eyes.

RaulRe: no Lisa. Actually that comment was pretty pragmatic.

LisaHa: I'm an instructional coach, and I'd like to forward my teachers here to see your ideas (especially the history teachers who only lecture) ... music is definitely a great way to connect with kids of all ages

BJB2 cheers for Lisa

MichaelD1: Yes, Lisa, music is the channel

LisaHa: I'm outta here but thanks for the excellent dialogue and ideas:)

VanessaG: Thanks Lisa

VanessaG: great Ideas

RaulRe: hey Michael, are these your students?

LisaHa left the room.

MichaelD1: no, not mine

JohnathanC: Mine...Did you notice the reference to the video in some of the essays?

MichaelD1: Yes, this is arts infusion

JohnathanC: also reference to other movies and lyrics

VanessaG: I'm reading the essays at the moment and these are bright students

JohnathanC: as my principal used to say.....a seamless curriculum

RaulRe: Johnathan...to give this topic to your students was a good idea...how did you prepare them to talk about a subject as profound as this?

MichaelD1: I like that -- "a seamless curriculum"

VanessaG: I love how one student thought of the idea that Mary J. Blige and Bono are different in their nationalities and appearances, yet they're the same in one nation and one whole. They came together to sing a song as one and no matter what their differences were, they appreciated each other's talents and what they have to offer to the whole.

JohnathanC: it's an ongoing process throughout the year Michael

MichaelD1: Johnathan - what was the time frame on this essay project

JohnathanC: we have a laptop cart that comes into my room

VanessaG: “Snow flakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look what they do when they stick together”. I like that :)

JohnathanC: and we worked for 5 class periods on a draft

JohnathanC: 42 minute periods

JenniferA4: Wow! These are some great essays, your students were able to grasp the concept and present their thoughts in such an interesting way.

JohnathanC: I collected the draft made some corrections (mostly grammar) and asked more questions to lead them

VanessaG: Great idea

JohnathanC: then they had three class periods for revisions and final draft

JohnathanC: Should we try another youtube video that I want to use for "Make A Difference Day" in the Fall

RaulRe: did all of the students respond in a positive way to the assignment?

JohnathanC: yes

JohnathanC: though effort was sorely lacking for some

JenniferA4: This is such a great way to teach students the importance of diversity and all that it brings to our nation. It really seems to have gotten the students to really think about this issue and to celebrate the fact that we are not all the same.

JohnathanC: One more video????

JenniferA4: Sure

MichaelD1: can you access YouTube at your school, or do you download and show?

JohnathanC: yes

JohnathanC: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sgycukafqQ>

BJB2 . o O (a reminder while everyone is still here that the next Learning From Lyrics will be on July 17)

VanessaG: I'm in the university library and it seems that it won't let me view this for media reasons now.

RaulRe: my computer is not letting me access the video

VanessaG: But I'll be sure to check it out once I have a different computer option.

RaulRe: I will check it out later though...

RaulRe: this is a good topic....diversity and unity

JohnathanC: Here's the essay....

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

RaulRe: two different things can be so alike.

VanessaG: I love the Legend of the Starfish...I will definitely share these stories with my peers.

JohnathanC: Don't forget to visit our music education MySpace when you have time...

VanessaG: Johnathan, did you find these resources on your own?

RaulRe: The legend of the starfish was just MOVING.

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

RaulRe: I loved it.

JohnathanC: yes

JenniferA4: Great

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall

RaulRe: I am sorry...but it WAS good.

VanessaG: Great ideas and resources to share.

JohnathanC: I love to compare and contrast media

BJB2: Johnathan, you hit the jackpot with this group...they were great!

RaulRe: I have to agree with Vanessa

JenniferA4: Thank you for all of the great ideas

VanessaG: It's neat that you incorporated lyrics, stories, and poetry to grab the students' attention.

MichaelD1: Jonathan - is your school project-based oriented, or did you come up with all of this on your own?

JohnathanC: mixture of both

MichaelD1: Fantastic stuff!

JohnathanC: Our previous principal was a big advocate

RaulRe: Johnathan, I encourage your students to analyze the lyrics in songs. it is one of the most efficient ways to get an idea into a young mind.

VanessaG: I definitely agree

JenniferA4: I can't wait to start incorporating music and lyrics into my instruction. I think that I will get a lot out of my students.

JohnathanC: thanks everyone

MichaelD1: I've got to sign out. Thank you for this!!!

JenniferA4: Thank You

BJB2: Thanks for leading the discussion, Johnathan, and sharing you fabulous ideas.

VanessaG: I will definitely begin to analyze lyrics to a greater extent now with the help of this discussion. Thanks so much :)

RaulRe: by reading these essays (coming from the minds of 8th graders mind you) I am inspired to use this method in my classroom

JohnathanC: yeah!

BJB2: Everyone please join Johnathan in July

JohnathanC: and bring a friend

BJB2 smiles.

VanessaG: I will definitely recommend this session to the peers in my college class.

JohnathanC: bye

RaulRe: me too

BJB2 waves goodnight

VanessaG: Thank you so much and greatnight everyone

RaulRe: hey Johnathan...good job....

VanessaG: Thanks BJB for all your help logging in. I greatly appreciate it.

BJB2: my pleasure, Vanessa :-)