

Title of Session: Learning From Lyrics

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: Learning From Lyrics Group

BjB waves hi to Cassie and Connie

BjB : thanks for being here a few minutes before the discussion is scheduled to begin!

BjB : Johnathan will be here shortly.

ConnieV: hello Cassie and BJ

CassieL: hi

BjB : is this your first learning from lyrics session, Connie?

ConnieV: yes it is

BjB : cool! I know it's Cassie's...she just joined the Tapped In community yesterday!

ConnieV: I just recently joined that Tapped In community as well

BjB : did you know you can view archived transcripts of past calendar events at www.tappedin.org/transcripts ?

ConnieV: no I did not, thank you I will check it out

BjB : transcripts are edited so they're not as much fun as participating in real time, but they usually have interesting information

BjB : while we wait for John to log in, have you looked at the screen above the chat window?

BjB : John has placed a lot of resources in this room

ConnieV: yes I'm looking at them right now

MshernaGst2 joined the room.

BjB : if you are comfortable doing this, you can go to Actions in the top right of the chat and select DETACH to make your chat larger and easier to follow...

MshernaGst2: Hi everyone

BjB: then overlap your web and chat windows

BjB waves hi to Msherna. Welcome.

BjB: are you here for the Learning From Lyrics discussion?

ConnieV: hello Msherna

MshernaGst2: This is my first time so If I just sit back and observe for a while please forgive me

MshernaGst2: Yes, I am here for the Lyrics discussion

BjB: no problem, MS. We usually start with brief introductions

BjB . o O (and we're waiting anxiously for Johnathan Chase, the leader of the discussion, to log in)

MshernaGst2: I was wondering the same thing

BjB: Let's do the intros now...

MshernaGst2: good idea

BjB: I'm on Tapped in helpdesk. I'm also a retired communications teacher located in Pennsylvania

MshernaGst2: My name is Graciela and I am a third grade teacher at Marshall Elementary in San Diego, CA

CassieL: I am an 8th grade English teacher from San Diego, CA.

BjB: Connie?

ConnieV: I am a senior in college and a teacher's aid at an elementary school

BjB: thanks!

BjB: what is your major, Connie?

ConnieV: English

MshernaGst2: So BJ you will be able to help us with any questions regarding Tapped In?

BJB nods...John's resources are mostly for secondary, but he has had some great elementary stuff

BJB : yes, I can answer most questions about Tapped In ;-)

BJB : the first thing I would suggest, Graciela, is that you get a free membership to Tapped In...

MshernaGst2: Great, I was actually considering changing to middle school some day and or upper grades

MshernaGst2: How do I do that?

BJB : members receive a transcript of their chats when they log out

MshernaGst2: Cool

BJB : go to www.tappedin.org and fill out the membership form

MshernaGst2: Great, thanks

ConnieV: I look forward to hearing what he has to say it seems very interesting

BJB . o O (only takes a few minutes)

MshernaGst2: question

BJB agrees with Connie and listens to Gabriela's q

MshernaGst2: what happens if our host Mr. Chase doesn't log on?

BJB : then I try to cover for him as best I can

MshernaGst2: I see

BJB . o O (which is never as good as he would do...)

BJB : but at least you would get credit for participating in a chat if you're doing it for a class

MshernaGst2: I also wanted to hear what he had to say but I am glad I would get the credit anyway :)

BJB : I think that John's main objective is to have educators think about how they can use contemporary music (or not so contemporary) to get kids to think

BjB : relating lyrics to history, to humanities...

BjB : why do you think he's been so successful at meeting his objective with his students?

BjB . o O (he has quite a few examples listed on the welcome screen you saw when you entered this room)

MshernaGst2: first of all, I think most students (people for that matter) are interested in music

BjB nods. Yes, that is true.

MshernaGst2: I can see lots of students getting into it

CassieL: it is motivational to students who feel that they aren't "good at school"

BjB : ahhh...different ways of learning...good, Cassie

MshernaGst2: it is also another outlet, let's say they aren't good at reading or math but seem to be artistic instead and can relate better through music

BjB nods to Gabriela...yes, your response and Cassie's are related

MshernaGst2: I saw that. :)

CassieL: and it's just a different way to use their analysis skills, beyond looking at the textbook

BjB : John has one other tool that he never mentions, but that I find remarkable...

MshernaGst2: Very true

ConnieV: that is very true Cassie

BjB : he sets high expectations for his students

MshernaGst2: high expectations is a must

BjB : and they tend to meet his expectations

ConnieV: it's always good to set high expectations

BjB : Yes, high expectations are good, but sometimes teachers get so overwhelmed by the rules and regs and paperwork and discipline issues that they find ways to reduce tension and thus reduce learning

MshernaGst2: even with basic kids or low achieving children, especially at-risk kids. If your expectations are low they will not produce much but it will be the opposite with high expectations and that's what we want for ALL students

MshernaGst2: BJ I see your point

BjB agrees completely with Graciela

CassieL: I agree Graciela

BjB : I'm just saying that it takes a lot of energy from the educators to maintain that high level of expectations

MshernaGst2: I am interested in hearing about specific lessons he has tried or matching certain songs to certain lessons

BjB looks at the list John has posted...let's see if I can find something for you

MshernaGst2: I agree on that point also but a true teacher would maintain high expectations throughout the school year

BjB : take a look at the myspace page John has created: <http://www.myspace.com/learningfromlyrics>

ConnieV: I just looked at his myspace page it is great

ConnieV: I love all the pictures he has on his page

MshernaGst2: I went ahead and look at it for a second or two before this session started but I will go back into it and look at it more closely. Thanks

BjB : the projects that go along with his assignments are alternative assessments

CassieL: Project-based learning?

MshernaGst2: that's great

BjB : yes, Cassie

MshernaGst2: I am going to have to check it out, does he have any modern music in his lessons I briefly saw he had old songs from the Beatles

SusanR joined the room.

MshernaGst2: Granted I didn't look at all his stuff

BjB waves hi to Sue

SusanR: Hi Bj and friends

MshernaGst2: Welcome Susan

CassieL: Hi

ConnieV: hello Susan

BjB: yes, he uses some contemporary music. Take a look at the lesson for ONE: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/onedbq.htm>

MshernaGst2: ok

BjB: it was so funny...I was reading a recent issue of Teaching Tolerance magazine and thought the article on lyrics was great...then I saw it was written by John! <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=900>

MshernaGst2: cool

BjB: for you language arts and English teachers, this is a wonderful way to engage kids in writing

MshernaGst2: that's great because sometimes it's like pulling teeth to get some kids to write anything

BjB cheers...welcome to the Tapped In Community, Gabriela!

MshernaGst2: HI Gabriela

MshernaGst2: I wonder if our friend Johnathan will come in today

BjB smiles...are you talking to yourself, Gabriela?

MshernaGst2: Do you know if he has this session planned for another time?

BjB: don't know...I sent him an email

GabrielaH: hello, am I in learning music from lyrics?

MshernaGst2: I am Graciela, she is Gabriela LOL

ConnieV: lol

BjB : yes you are, Gabriela.

BjB : Oh, my bad!

TamraD joined the room.

BjB loves both names :-)

JeffC joined the room.

MshernaGst2: thanks :)

BjB : welcome, Tamra and Jeff

MshernaGst2: I am so glad we are getting more people in here

JeffC waves

ConnieV: Hello Jeff

TamraD: Thank you! I finally made it on...I am technologically challenged it seems!

MshernaGst2: Hi everyone who just joined us

GabrielaH: this is my first time in one of these meetings

MshernaGst2: I am also new at these sessions :)

TamraD: Same here!

MshernaGst2: We all seem to be on the same boat

BjB : I'm afraid Johnathan Chase hasn't shown up, but we're having a lovely discussion on using lyrics in the classroom

ConnieV: I am new as well Gabriela H

TamraD: I'm doing this to fulfill a class requirement (Masters of Education)

GabrielaH: so how does it work

BjB : pretty much how you're doing it now, Gabriela

BjB : we started with introductions

GabrielaH: ok

TamraD: Is there an agenda or is it just free conversation?

MshernaGst2: So far we have not seen our host Johnathan but BJ is doing a wonderful job at filling in for him and we are talking about how to incorporate music into our lessons

BjB: so that everyone could let the discussion leader know what discipline they were in

BjB: . o O (I'm the sub discussion leader ;-))

MshernaGst2: Should we introduce ourselves again?

MshernaGst2: 3rd grade teacher in San Diego, CA

TamraD: I teach 1st grade in Raleigh, NC

BjB: but we also have Jeff and Sue here. They are also on the Tapped In helpdesk and very knowledgeable about lots of topics

GabrielaH: I've migrated to NC

ConnieV: I am a senior in college and a teacher's aid in an elementary school

CassieL: 8th grade English in San Diego

MshernaGst2: Its great that we have so much experience in the room :)

BjB: most of John's resources have been for secondary level, but he did give us some resources for primary at the last discussion

MshernaGst2: are those available to us?

TamraD: It's ok...I'm happy with any grade level resources...

GabrielaH: I'm also a sr. in college at UTPA

BjB: let's see if I can get some for you.

MshernaGst2: great

TamraD: I'd like them too!

ConnieV: I would like to see them as well

GabrielaH: me also, if possible

BjB : hmmm...latest transcript from Learning From Lyrics is from March...

MshernaGst2: can we get any information on Johnathan here ? I need it for my assignment

BjB : the person who posts the scripts just had a baby, so she's a little behind in posting...

BjB : but go to www.tappedin.org/transcripts

BjB : and you can see for yourself

MshernaGst2: as long as the information is valid still

BjB : Graciela, click on the SEARCH tab in the top right of your screen

BjB : enter Johnathan Chase and press find it

BjB : when you get a match, click on John's name next to the green i

BjB : and you'll see all John's information

MshernaGst2: I just did, thank you

BjB : for those of you who are logged in as members, all the urls I've posted will be in your transcripts so you can check them later if you prefer

GabrielaH: thank you

ConnieV: oh ok great thank you

GabrielaH: so then how do we incorporate lyrics into our teaching

MshernaGst2: I don't think I got a response on an earlier question, is John going to have another session on this since he wasn't able to make it tonight?

BjB : maybe we should pose the original question from the beginning of our discussion :-)

BjB : He'll probably just schedule his next session for next month assuming all is well, Graciela

MshernaGst2: K

GabrielaH: what is the question

BjB : August 19

TamraD: will we still have a discussion tonight

BjB: we've been having it for almost 40 minutes, Tamra!

SusanR: . o O (btw for grade one/two I used this one for math and LA ..If I had a million dollars)

MshernaGst2: Tamra, if you try his home page or the links he suggests, it will be useful

SusanR: <http://www.com-www.com/musiclyrics/barenakedladies-ifihadamilliondollars.html>

MshernaGst2: Lot's of great info on there and information

BjB: a reminder to hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url

BjB: to override pop up blockers

BjB: the first question I posed was " why do you think he's been so successful at meeting his objective with his students?"

BjB: Connie, Cassie and Graciela already answered...

MshernaGst2: sorry to interrupt but I just checked out the url you suggested and its great!!

BjB: Tamra and Gabriela, do you have any input?

GabrielaH: I guess because music moves us all

MshernaGst2: I usually use "If I had a million dollars..." as a writing prompt for my students at the beginning of the school year and now I have a wonderful idea where I can turn their writing into a song. WOW. COOL

BjB: yes, Gabriela, music is a powerful tool

SusanR: they have put out a children's album as of late
<http://www.bnlmusic.com/snacktime/>

ConnieV: wow that's great

MshernaGst2: music also brings back lots of memories and emotions

BjB: John also has a lot of resources and samples of lessons above this chat on the welcome screen

GabrielaH: it doesn't matter how you are feeling, music will either make you feel worst or better depending on the lyrics

TamraD: We use music a lot of the things we do...but I had never considered a song by Bare Naked Ladies! We listen to Jack Black everyday!

BjB: it can also make you think, Gabriela

MshernaGst2: I totally agree and we can take what we feel and incorporate it into our writing, journal writing, memoirs, or poetry

GabrielaH: you have a point

TamraD: I had several students with Autism in my class. They wouldn't write stories, so instead I let them write songs. It was amazing...

ConnieV: music is a great tool for learning

MshernaGst2: That's cool

BjB: great, Tamra! How did they write the songs? Did they use computers?

ConnieV: wow Tamra, that's very cool

GabrielaH: how amazing

MshernaGst2: so you got them to write eventhough they thought it wasn't writing. Creative

MshernaGst2: Music or a song can also be transformed into Art

BjB: yes, definitely!

GabrielaH: not to be rude or anything, but how long do these type of sessions last?

MshernaGst2: I once had the students listen to jazz and create a piece of art that they felt matched with the tone and rhythm of the song

TamraD: Yes, it is difficult for Autistic children to write "personal narratives," so I showed examples of how the songs were personal narratives sung by the singers

BjB: . o O (Tapped In discussions are for one hour. This one will be over in 15 minutes)

MshernaGst2: session is or should be over at 7, right?

MshernaGst2: that's too bad because we are just now getting into it

TamraD: I agree

BjB chuckles...depends on your time zone, Graciela!

BjB: that is one big advantage to having these discussions every month...

BjB: you can sustain learning...or refresh learning

MshernaGst2: I really think these discussions are beneficial and I plan to come in again. :)

BjB: or bring a new point of view or something new you've tried in your classroom that worked or didn't work

BjB: we all learn from each other

MshernaGst2: I agree

ConnieV: I love to hear what you all have to say it gives me great ideas on what I can do when I become a teacher

MshernaGst2: I love to get ideas from other people and try them

GabrielaH: like I mentioned I had never been in such a discussion, but I think that this is so interesting

MshernaGst2: Connie, it is great that you are getting ideas even before you start teaching. You are going to be a great teacher

BjB . o O (and that is one of the reasons that Tapped In values each member...you are the best resource in this community!)

ConnieV: thank you msherna

GabrielaH: getting all these different inputs is great

BjB: Sue is our resident expert on elementary level...

SusanR . o O (research supports the use of music as a mnemonic device for the learning and recall of new information)

BjB: she leads the k to 3+ Resources discussion

TamraD: Any advice Sue

SusanR: I have a number of resources in the K to 3 Resource room re music ..feel free to browse

BjB: I'd also like to put in a plug for the Tapped In Festival on July 23 and 24

MshernaGst2: interesting

MshernaGst2: I saw that BJ can you tell us more about that, what is it going to discuss?

ConnieV: thank you Susan I will be sure to check them out

GabrielaH: what is the festival about?

BjB: <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/festival/>

BjB: the theme for this year's festival is Beyond Conflict: Creating peaceful communities

SusanR: get a true feeling for the value of the Tapped In community by attending one or more of the festival events

BjB: there are some very exciting events scheduled...the keynotes for both days are amazing

TamraD: What is a way to incorporate music and technology

MshernaGst2: I will be sure to listen in

BjB: make a music video

TamraD: any other suggestions? 1st grade...

MshernaGst2: Any other suggestions, any grade???

BjB: make an abstract picture using colors or shapes

TamraD: Most of my students have an Ipod, and I don't even have one...so I actually think they could make a music video. Is there a specific software program to make it seem "real"

BjB: have the color or shape represent a beat, a feeling, a rhythm

ConnieV: that's a very good idea

BjB: or for the little ones...create patterns to go with the music

GabrielaH: those are great ideas that maybe I can incorporate in my own classroom when I become a teacher

SusanR: a nice starter site <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/music.htm>

TamraD: one thing I've done...I gave the student's a book without the words (there are books published that way or you can cover up the words) and I have them write a song to go with the book

BjB: that sounds like fun, Tamra!

SusanR: they love to rap

MshernaGst2: that's a cool idea, I had them do the same but with just writing their own story to match the picture, this takes it a step further. GREAT IDEA!!!

ConnieV: I love everyone's ideas they are so creative

TamraD: In our 1st grade play, there is always a rap. It is their favorite song every time.

BjB: who writes the rap, Tamra?

GabrielaH: I know, you guys must be very good teachers the kinds that we need more of

TamraD: Do any of you ever buy the Kidz Bop type cds that has pop music that is made "kid appropriate"

ConnieV: no, but I have heard of them

TamraD: We buy the play and it contains the rap...maybe they could write one though

MshernaGst2: I have heard them, my niece has one. She loves it

BjB looks at the clock on the wall. Our time is almost up...

BjB: The next Learning From Lyrics will be on August 19

BjB: any final comments or questions?

TamraD: One of my best song activities is we take the song What a Wonderful World. Each child gets one lyric and illustrates it. We make a book out of the lyrics/illustrations and send it home to each family.

GabrielaH see you there

TamraD: Thanks! I'll come back again. Neat.

MshernaGst2: that is another great idea,

ConnieV: that's cool

ConnieV: I will be sure to come back again

MshernaGst2: I will come back for sure. Thanks to everyone for their input and wonderful ideas. Goodnight all

BjB : that would be a very cool international or multicultural project, Tamra

ConnieV: Thank you everyone you have give me many great ideas

BjB waves goodnight. Thanks for participating. Thanks, Sue, for your contributions

TamraD: We do the WW book for Earth Day, but a lot of things are discussed!

ConnieV: You all are such great teachers we need many more teachers like you all

BjB smiles...all teachers in Tapped In are like that, Connie!

ConnieV: very true!

BjB . o O (they're the ones who go for prof development even when they don't have to)

TamraD: Goodnight. Actually I don't know how to log off..

BjB : in the top right of your screen next to SEARCH is a logout button

BjB . o O (orange)

MshernaGst2: Hope Johnathan is ok. :)

BjB : me too! Thanks, Graciela

GabrielaH: I had a great time

SusanR: Thanks all..great contributions and sharing

GabrielaH: thanks to all of you for such great ideas