

Teacher Notes



Metaphor and Simile in Song

Activity 3 Tuning in to Metaphor and Simile

Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** English
- ◆ **Subject Area:** English/Language Arts
- ◆ **Category:** Literary Devices
- ◆ **Topic:** Figures of Speech
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 6 - 8
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** None
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 100 minutes

Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus
- ◆ TI External Keyboard
- ◆ NoteFolio™ app installed on each TI-83 Plus
- ◆ Overhead projector
- ◆ Computers with Internet access
- ◆ CD player and audiotape player

Activity Overview

Students bring their favorite CDs or tapes with songs (or snippets) that display metaphor and/or simile and play these pieces for review and interpretation of their classmates. The students determine where metaphor and/or simile was used in each song, and the students record the occurrences in a NoteFolio™ file on their TI-83 Plus handhelds.

Tip

This is an activity that students should particularly enjoy considering they will be able to appreciate their favorite songs in ways they probably never considered. In addition, having students' favorite music in the classroom to assist in the lesson should make for a more enthusiastic approach to the lesson by students.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Have a CD player and an audiocassette player in the room and ready for this activity. If the students have given you their play lists, then it can be convenient to have printouts of the lyrics for these songs to refer to, if needed.

During the Activity

Start the class period by polling the students to determine how many of them have chosen the same song to play in class. Let those students presenting the same song make the presentation as a group. Give them 5 -10 minutes to work together to plan their presentation. Students who are making solo presentations can use this time to review their presentation.

Remind the students that while the music is playing, they are to be listening for the instances where metaphor and simile are used. They should note these occurrences in a new NoteFolio™ file.

For each musical presentation, the presenter should begin by stating the name of the song, the composer and the artist. Individual presentations should allow for a two-minute play time, while group presentations may be longer, especially if the members chose different portions of the lyrics to present.

After each presentation, start a brief discussion by asking the listeners for the metaphor and simile examples they heard in the song. When the audience's answers are voiced, the presenter should give the examples they found in the song and briefly discuss the usage and meaning of these in context.

Note: If any disagreements arise about the lyrics of a song, refer to the printouts of the lyrics to resolve the issue.

After the Activity

After all the presentations are completed, ask the class to repeat four or five of their favorite metaphors or similes from their song selections. Write these on a clean transparency, then ask the class to rephrase these passages without using the metaphor or simile. (This is a class effort. It could be difficult!) When this exercise is done, compare and contrast the effectiveness of the two phrases. Highlight how the metaphor or simile is richer text and contributes to the success and impact of the song.