

Teaching Theme with Music

Developed by: Erin Montgomery, 2015 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Discipline: Reading/Language Arts

Topic: Analyzing Theme

Grade Level: This lesson plan is for 7th. Can be modified for any grade level.

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

1. Lyrics to *I Did the Iditarod Trail* by Hobo Jim - http://d3r6t1k4mqz5i.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/teacher_blog/2009/08/TrailSong.pdf
2. Hobo Jim singing *I Did the Iditarod Trail* - http://d3r6t1k4mqz5i.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/teacher_blog/2009/08/Hobo-Jim-singing1.avi
3. There are many resources on YouTube to hear and see Hobo Jim sing his song.

Lesson Summary: Students will use songs to help them analyze themes of stories.

Standard's Addressed: Common Core Standards

1. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

Learning objectives: Students will be able to analyze song lyrics to determine theme.

Procedural Activities:

1. Play class the theme song to a T.V. show (I used *Friends*).
2. Ask students what they think the theme of the T.V. show is.
3. Discuss with the class that the theme is Friendship - class discussion
4. Teach what theme of a story is
 - a. Theme is the main idea or the underlying meaning of a literary work that may be stated directly or indirectly
 - b. Include examples from the theme song from *Friends* in this discussion
5. Close reading: Use the lyrics to *I Did the Iditarod Trail* by Hobo Jim (lyrics are attached to lesson plan)
 - a. Use Song Lyrics Analysis Worksheet.
 - b. Have students complete on their own.
 - c. Discuss the lyrics and student answers.
6. Play the song *I Did the Iditarod Trail* to the class.
 - a. Have students use the lyrics while listening to the song.
7. Discuss the theme of the song again.
8. Students will choose a book they are reading and choose a song to be the *Theme Song* of their book
 - a. Students should highlight words/phrases in lyrics that support the theme and theme song they chose for their book.
9. Students will write a parody theme song for a book they are reading. Students will choose a song and re-write the words to relate to the book they are reading
 - a. Use GarageBand or Audiotool to record song

Materials Students Need:

1. Lyrics to *I Did the Iditarod Trail*
2. Book they are currently reading
3. Computer for access to lyrics

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

1. GarageBand or Audiotool

Other Information:

Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

1. Modification: Have younger or slower learning students draw a picture of the theme of the song.
2. Enrichment: Have students create their own video of the song *I Did the Iditarod Trail*
3. Enrichment: Have students create a video for the parody they created.