

Music Lesson Plan: Sing a Song of Indiana

Length: 20 minutes/6 days

Age or Grade Intended: 4th Grade

Academic Standard(s):

4.5.4 Describe the role of Indiana artists in American visual arts, literature, music, dance, and theatre.

Performance Objectives:

Having heard John Mellencamp's song "Small Town", students will learn to sing the song with 100% accuracy.

Advanced Preparation by Teacher:

Acquire a copy of John Mellencamp's song "Small Town", both disc and lyrics.
Find a brief biography/history of John Mellencamp to share with the class.

Procedure:

Introduction/Motivation:

John Mellencamp's music (that is elementary school appropriate) will be playing when the students enter the room.

Step-by-Step Plan:

Students will be asked, "Does anyone know who this singer is?" "Does anyone know where he's from and currently live?" Students will hold class discussion about who they think the musician is for 5 minutes or until the artist is guessed. The teacher will then give a brief (2-3 minute) history of John Mellencamp. The students will then listen to the song "Small Town". The teacher will project the words (see attached) on the overhead and let the students follow along while listening to the song. Each day students will memorize a new verse of the song. \

Closure:

At the end of 6 days, they will have learned the entire song and will perform it at the annual 4th grade program.

Adaptations/Enrichment:

Adaptations:

Students who are hearing impaired can learn to sign the song. Students who are visually impaired will use a Braille copy to learn the song.

Enrichments:

Students can make paper plate tambourines to shake while singing the song.

Bloom's Questions:

Knowledge: Who is this artist?
Where does the artist live?
Why do you think the artist wrote this song?

Gardner Multiple Intelligences:

Musical: Learning a song

Kinesthetic: Creating and playing tambourines.

Self-Reflection:

The lesson will be considered successful if all students learn the song and enjoy performing it in the annual 4th grade program.

John Mellencamp's
"Small Town"

<http://www.lyricsdepot.com/john-cougar-mellencamp/small-town.html>

Well I was born in a small town
And I live in a small town
Prob'ly die in a small town
Oh, those small communities

All my friends are so small town
My parents live in the same small town
My job is so small town
Provides little opportunity

Educated in a small town
Taught the fear of Jesus in a small town
Used to daydream in that small town
Another boring romantic that's me

But I've seen it all in a small town
Had myself a ball in a small town
Married an I.A. doll and brought her to this small town
Now she's small town just like me

No I cannot forget where it is that I come from
I cannot forget the people who love me
Yeah, I can be myself here in this small town
And people let me be just what I want to be

Got nothing against a big town
Still hayseed enough to say
Look who's in the big town
But my bed is in a small town
Oh, and that's good enough for me

Well I was born in a small town
And I can breathe in a small town
Gonna die in this small town
And that's prob'ly where they'll bury me