

LESSON PLAN: Start With A Rhyme

Objective:

Students will create rhyming song lyrics and compose a melody for them, following specific guidelines.

Resources:

Start with a Rhyme Worksheet, pen, guitar or keyboard

Procedures:

- 1 Begin with a hook: "The words of a song are called lyrics." (Fun Fact: Lyric derives from the Greek word lyrikos, meaning "singing to the lyre". The lyre was a Greek string instrument much like the guitar) To help the students start writing lyrics, start with rhyming words.
- 2 Model the activity for the class. Have the students pick two pairs of rhyming words such as cat, hat.
- 3 "Now that we have all of our rhyming words, can anyone give me a sentence that ends with one of these words?" Repeat this process until you have four sentences.
- 4 Have the whole class read the four sentences aloud in unison. Add a beat to turn it into a rap.
- 5 Now add a simple chord progression. You can improvise a melody for the first line and ask students to echo you. Ask for volunteers to help you with the other lines.
- 6 Distribute the worksheet and have students work in groups of 2-4 to compose their own verse over a chord progression of their choosing, or that you assign. A single chord could work too!
- 7 Have students record and/or perform their ideas for review and assessment.

Extensions:

- 1 If all students use the same progression, combine each groups verse to make a class song!
- 2 Have students adhere to a topic either of your choosing, or of theirs.
- 3 Have students add a second section to their song with a new chord progression, melody and lyrics.

Differentiation:

- 1 Assign roles to the group members. All students can focus on lyrics, 2 on the singing, 2 on playing the chords, etc.
- 2 Allow students to stick with rap as opposed to adding melody

National Core Arts Standards (Music):

Anchor Standard #1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. Anchor Standard #2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work. Anchor Standard #3: Refine and complete artistic work. Anchor Standard #6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work. Anchor Standard #8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. Anchor Standard #10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

