

Lesson Ideas

Musical Memories

Begin by playing two very different types of music to the class. You could choose some heavy metal and an excerpt from Mozart for example. Play the pieces one at a time and ask the class to be aware of how the music effects their feelings. After each piece ask them to brainstorm ways in which the music effected them. Music has tremendous power to influence mood and to express things that we find difficult to express in words. It is also very closely linked to memory.

Main Activity:

Ask the class to think of, and share any times when a piece of music has been played alongside a very emotional moment for them. It may have been at a wedding, a funeral or a football match etc.

Give pupils the task of compiling a list of the top tunes that mean something to them. The tunes must have a story behind them. They could be songs played on a first date, or Mum's favourite track to sing along to at karaoke, or a tune that reminds them of a specific holiday.

Ask each child to write the song title down, and also the story of why that song is so special (it may be special for happy or difficult reasons).

Plenary:

Ask members of the class to share their tracks, and the stories behind them. If you wanted to make this activity last into another session, you could ask some pupils to bring in the tracks that they have written about so that they can be played to the class as well as telling the memory that makes that tune so special.

National Curriculum Requirements:

3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4d, 5e