

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
O. COLE
CREATIVE WRITING 2022

Songs That Tell Stories

Lesson Focus and Goals

Discussing the elements of story: what does a story need in order to be a story? Does every story have the same elements? Students become comfortable with discussing as a group and sharing their ideas about story and character.

Materials Needed:

Printed lyrics and speaker for projecting songs for class to hear

Structure / Activity

Class will discuss as a group what they believe a story needs in order to be a story. We will write some of the things we come up with on the board.

Using songs (eg. "Tyrone" by Erykah Badu, "You Got Me," by The Roots, "Before He Cheats" by Carrie Underwood, and "Sunday Candy" by Chance the Rapper), students will listen and follow along on printed lyrics as a group to prepare for a discussion on character, setting, plot, and other literary devices.

Students will become comfortable with close-reading for meaning and discussing a variety of literary devices in a low-pressure structure.

Students will then be asked for a few examples of songs they enjoy that they believe have different elements of story. Listen and discuss as a group.

Assessment

Were students comfortable speaking out at the beginning of class? What changed? Did music help or hinder the process? Did students feel comfortable contributing to the group?