

Lesson Plan: Songs of WWI
Kimberly Cruz, Mulberry Middle School

Lesson Plan Summary:

Students will be put into groups. They will read Ch 22 Section 4 in the Call to Freedom textbooks. Then they will read “Connecting to the Arts” on pg. 683. Groups will then read the lyrics and listen to three WWI songs. After listening to each song they will discuss and analyze the songs. Then they will make an outline for a WWI song which will help them to write a modern day version of a WWI song.

Objectives:

1. Explain how entry of the U.S. affected the war.
2. Understand why WWI songs were so important to the war.
3. Analyze the purpose and significance of songs during WWI.
4. Write a modern day WWI Song to perform for the class.

Sunshine State Standards:

SS.A.1.3.3- Knows how to impose temporal structure

SS.B.1.3.5- Knows ways in which the spatial organization of a society changes over time

LA.B.1.3.1- Organizes information before writing

LA.B.2.3.1- Writes text that demonstrates comprehension of content

U.S. History Event/Time Period:

The U.S. entry into World War One/ June 1917

Grade Level:

8th grade and above

Materials Needed:

1. Call to Freedom Textbook
2. WWI Song Lyrics (attached)
3. Song Analysis handout (attached)

Lesson Time:

5 (40 minute classes):

1(40 minute class) to read text together and discuss

1(40 minute class) to listen to and analyze three WWI songs

1(40 minute class) to create a group outline for a WWI song

1(40 minute class) to create a WWI song

1(40 minute class) to perform WWI song to the class

Lesson Procedure:

1. Students will be put into groups of four. The groups will read and discuss Ch 22 Section 4 (pgs. 682- 685) in the Call to Freedom textbook. Then they will read “Connecting to the Arts” on pg. 683 about John Philip Sousa, a man who wrote more war songs than anyone else in his time.
2. When they have finished reading the class will listen to three WWI songs. Each group will have handouts of the song lyrics for each group to follow along as the song plays. After listening to the songs the groups will work together to analyze the lyrics that have been given to them. (Song Lyrics and Song Analysis handouts will be given to students).
3. Then the group will work together to write an outline for a song. The groups will then use their outlines to write a present day version of a WWI song about the U.S. and its entry into the war. Then they will perform it for the class.

Assessment:

Students will be graded on group participation while outlining and writing the WWI song. When students perform for the class they will be graded on a rubric scale.

Resources:

1. Stuckey, Sterling and Linda K. Salvucci. Call to Freedom. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2005.
2. “Over There” lyrics and recording from:
<http://www.firstworldwar.com/audio/overthere.htm>
3. “I Don’t Know Where I’m going but I’m On My Way” lyrics and recording from:
<http://www.firstworldwar.com/audio/idontknowwhereimgoing.htm>
4. “Send Me Away With a Smile” lyrics and recording from:
<http://www.firstworldwar.com/audio/sendmeawaywithasmile.htm>
5. Questions from Song Analysis Worksheet taken from:
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/preview/lessons/music/analysis.html>

Song Analysis Worksheet

Directions: For each song answer the following questions. For each song use a new Song Analysis worksheet.

1. What is the title of the Song?
2. Write a three sentence summary describing the main idea of the song.
3. Choose one or two phrases of the song that are interesting to you and explain why.
4. Based on the lyrics, in your opinion, what seems to be the viewpoint expressed in the song?

Over There

Johnnie, get your gun,
Get your gun, get your gun,
Take it on the run,
On the run, on the run.
Hear them calling, you and me,
Every son of liberty.
Hurry right away,
No delay, go today,
Make your daddy glad
To have had such a lad.
Tell your sweetheart not to pine,
To be proud her boy's in line.
(chorus sung twice)

Johnnie, get your gun,
Get your gun, get your gun,
Johnnie show the Hun
Who's a son of a gun.
Hoist the flag and let her fly,
Yankee Doodle do or die.
Pack your little kit,
Show your grit, do your bit.
Yankee to the ranks,
From the towns and the tanks.
Make your mother proud of you,
And the old Red, White and Blue.
(chorus sung twice)

Chorus

Over there, over there,
Send the word, send the word over there -
That the Yanks are coming,
The Yanks are coming,
The drums rum-tumming
Ev'rywhere.
So prepare, say a pray'r,
Send the word, send the word to beware.
We'll be over, we're coming over,
And we won't come back till it's over
Over there.

I Don't Know Where I'm Going But I'm On My Way

First Verse

Goodbye everybody I'm off to fight the foe Uncle Sammy is calling me so I must go Gee I'm feeling fine don't you wish that you were me? For I'm sailing tomorrow over the deep blue sea.

Second Verse

Take a look at me I'm a Yankee thro' and thro' I was born on July the Fourth in ninety two And I'll march away with a feather in my hat, For I'm joining the army what do you think of that?

Chorus

And I don't know where I'm going but I'm on my way
For I belong to the regulars I'm proud to say And I'll do my
duty-uty night or day I don't know where I'm going but I'm on
my way.

Send Me Away With a Smile

Little girl don't cry
I must say goodbye
Don't you hear the bugle call?
And the fife and drum beats all
With the flag wave o'er us all
Tho I love you so
It is time to go
And the soldier in me you'll find
When on land or sea
Many boys like me
You would not have me stay behind?

Chorus:

So, send me away with a smile little girl
Brush the tears from eyes of brown.
It's all for the best
And I'm off with the rest
With the boys from my hometown.
It may be forever we part little girl
But it may be for only a while.
But if fight here we must
Then in God is our trust.
So, send me away with a smile.

When I leave you dear
Give me words of cheer
To recall in times of pain.
They will come towards me
And will seem to be
Like the sunshine after rain.
Amid shot and shell
I'd remember well.
You must be a soldier too.
And through this war I am fighting
for My country, my home, and you.

Refrain:

It may be forever we part little girl
But it may be for only a while.
But if fight here we must
Then in God is our trust.
So, send me away with a smile.