Emotions in Music

Grade Level:
PK-2
3-5

Integrated Subjects
Social Science

Lesson Overview

Music can portray and evoke emotions. What musical elements do you hear that make you feel a certain way? How does the composer use these elements to portray emotion? Students will listen to a musical selection and brainstorm the feelings it evokes, and then move into a writing activity about that emotion.

Student Learning Overview

Children will be able to sit quietly and focus on listening to music. Children will begin to recognize the musical elements of dynamics and tempo. Children will be able to discuss the emotions that music can portray and evoke.

Learning Sequence

This is actually a sequence of 3 lessons.

First lesson: "Intro" activity: Brainstorm feelings and discuss how our bodies look and move for different emotions. Discuss how our voices sound for different emotions. Bring in terms for dynamics and tempo. Create a stick puppet using images of faces with different emotions colored and taped to the stick.

Second lesson: "Through" activity: Children will use their puppets to indicate the emotion that they think is portrayed in different musical selections. Discuss why they chose each emotion. Pose the question: "What did you hear in the music that made you feel....?" On the same day, or another day, create a chart with the different selections and emotions. Write down their ideas and thoughts about the musical selections for each emotion.

Third Lesson: "Beyond" activity: Revisit the chart and discuss the words that they used for each emotion. Decide which piece of music was their favorite. Brainstorm more words for that music and emotion. Have the children draw and write (or dictate) their story for that music.
Assessment

Assessment is based on observation and participation. Children should be able to listen quietly and participate in the conversation and activities in an appropriate manner. Their written work will be used as a final assessment to show their understanding of the concept.

Classical Music Used In This Lesson

I used selections from www.sfskids.com for the various pieces. It is a great way to find "snippets" of well known works.

**Happy:** Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 by Johann Sebastian Bach; A Little Night Music by A. W. Mozart; Appalachian Spring, Simple Gifts by Aaron Copland; Young Romeo and Juliet by Sergei Prokofiev

**Sad:** Symphony No. 5 Adagietto and Symphony No. Third movement by Gustav Mahler; Symphony No. 9 Largo by Antonín Dvořák

**Angry:** Symphony No. 5 by Ludwig van Beethoven; Midnight from Cinderella Dance of the Knights by Sergei Prokofiev

**Scared:** Rite of Spring by Igor Stravinsky

Materials & Equipment

Computer with speakers; internet access to http://www.sfskids.com; popsicle sticks; images of happy, sad, angry, and scared faces; tape; chart paper and pens; writing paper and art supplies

Time Required

Three to five 15-minute lessons

National Music Standards

Listening to, analyzing, and describing music

Understanding relationships between music, other arts, and outside disciplines

State Standards

California: LS2.1 Describe people, places, and things; LS1.0 Writing strategies; VAPA 1.2 Artistic Perception; VAPA 5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

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Connections to Pathways to Integration

BLUE: Music as its own content area

Inclusion/English Language Learner

This lesson actively involves the student in moving and expressing feelings. This is ideal for learning vocabulary for emotions.

Teacher to Teacher

If you would like a copy of the clip art that I used, please contact me. I was having trouble uploading the file!

Portfolio Links

http://www.sfskids.com