

MUSEUM
AS→LEARNING
RESOURCE

CARNEGIE
MUSEUM OF ART

GENERAL MUSIC,
VISUAL ARTS, ENGLISH
LANGUAGE ARTS

Title: Music and Art Make a Story

Teacher-in-Residence: Emily Zbrzezny

Grades: 4–8

Subjects: General Music, Visual Arts, English Language Arts

Goals:

- Students will be able to analyze characteristics of artworks from multiple time periods.
- Students will be able to create a short story based on the characteristics of the artwork of their choosing and a song from the era when that artwork was created.

Objectives:

- Students will choose one of three artworks from different time periods to analyze, focusing on elements such as colors, textures, subjects, emotions evoked, background, mood, etc.
- Students will then listen to three pieces of music from the era of the artwork they choose and decide which one they feel matches their artwork the most.
- Students will work in groups to write a two- to three-paragraph short story based on the artwork they chose.
- Students will present their short stories to the class and describe how the artwork influenced their story.

National Association for Music Education Standards:

- [Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.](#)
- [Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.](#)

Vocabulary:

- color
- texture
- subject
- emotion
- mood
- background

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Artworks Used (see images below)

- *Water Lilies (Nymphéas)*, Claude Monet, 1907
<https://collection.cmoa.org/objects/7053d468-bf1f-42c9-b5bd-c7ccdb335c66>
- *Men and women dancing, including Charles "Teenie" Harris in center, and Barbara Jones, Helen Phillips, and William "Woogie" Harris in background, for birthday party of Teenie Harris, in Loendi Club*, Charles "Teenie" Harris, 1938
<https://collection.cmoa.org/objects/5d571455-6e0a-46e0-a05b-a2f8099df3e4>
- *Autumn Maples Tama River*, Utagawa Hiroshige, 1837
<https://collection.cmoa.org/objects/961f8c55-a7d7-4940-afb6-5c0e966b96d7>

Music Used:

- "Clair De Lune," Claude Debussy, 1907
- "Jumping at the Woodside," Count Basie and his Orchestra, 1938
- "Edo Lullaby," Japanese lullaby, ca. 1603–1868

Materials Needed:

- printed copies of each piece of artwork for each student
- playlist of songs listed above
- Chromebooks or paper and pencil for students to write their observations of the artwork as well as their short stories
- copies of worksheet (attached below)

Steps:

- **Introduction:** Introduce the three artworks. Explain to students that we are going to analyze the characteristics of the artwork they select. Model for them how they will analyze the artwork and music by asking the questions, "What do you see going on in this artwork?" or "What do you hear going on in this music?" and "What do you see/hear that makes you say that?"
- **Main Activity:** Set up three stations for each artwork. Have students select one work. Students at each station will be a group. Have students spend 15 to 20 minutes discussing the artwork and filling out the "What Do You See" chart together. After they fill out the chart, they will listen to the song associated with their artwork of choice and circle what they heard in each song on the worksheet. Students will then work in their groups to create a two- to three-paragraph short story based on the artwork they chose.

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- **Transitions:** Since this activity is mostly independent group work, the teacher will float around the room and ask/answer questions of each student, supporting them and making sure that they are on the right track.
- **Questions:** Reference worksheet attached.
- **Assessment:** Students will present their short stories to the class and explain how the artwork/music they chose influenced their story.

Lesson Extensions/Modifications:

- This lesson can easily be modified for each grade level.
- The amount of time dedicated to each activity can be shortened/lengthened to accommodate different class lengths.
- This lesson can be spread out into a longer day unit if necessary.

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Artwork Title and Artist:

Song Title and Artist:

Student Name:

What do you see going on in this artwork?

Colors:	Textures:	Subjects (People/Plants/Animals):
Emotion:	Mood:	Setting:

Circle what you hear in the song:

Tempo (Speed): Very Slow Slow Medium Fast Very Fast	Dynamics (Volume): Very Soft Soft Medium Loud Very Loud	Mood: Excited Happy Sad Calming Scared	Instruments: Strings Wood wind Brass Percussion Singing
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Water Lilies (Nymphéas), 1907
Claude Mone

