

ReadBox Project

-Songbird-



Listening to music is a favourite pastime for many people and is a part of popular culture around the world. Pop song lyrics are both meaningful and motivating authentic material, so why not use them for our ReadBox project ?! By listening to music and reading the lyrics, you will be getting used to the English language's flow, intonation and rhythm *and* you will be learning and practicing your thinking skills all the same time.

It turns out that a lot of these songs actually have stories behind them. A lot of these great songs come from interesting personal experiences and are stories from the artists who write them. So the songs you listen to are really just stories or poems and you could say that songwriters are authors. We would like you to dig up those lyrics that you can identify with; do they relate to your own experiences and values ?! Songs that work best are almost normally those that produce some sort of response to the music. So choose a song with a good story line or a song which requires you to actually work out what it is about.

Before getting started

Remember that your lyrics need to be approved by your teacher before you can use them for your ReadBox project, so please check beforehand that the lyrics don't have inappropriate language or inappropriate content. If you are not certain, ask your teacher. Also make sure that your that the lyrics are suitable for you.

Procedure

- 1 First of all you have to find your favourite artist/ pop group or song. (see ReadBox Introduction for weblinks). Make sure that the lyrics that you choose have to have a deep meaning behind them.
- 2 Find the lyrics to the song and copy the lyrics onto your computer/ laptop. Log onto your Edmodo ReadBox folder, make a new folder and name it: ReadBox Songbird. Upload both the song (MP3/ MP4) and the lyrics onto your Edmodo ReadBox folder). If you cannot upload it, make sure that you insert a hyperlink.
- 3 The next step is to listen to the song. You could play it off your mobile phone, a CD or a streaming service like Spotify. Use your earplugs.
- 4 After listening to the song, fill in the title of the song, album and artist.
- 5 Listen to the song a second time. Now you are going to listen for detail and specific information. Use clues in the lyrics to determine the theme and the songwriter's point of view. As you listen to the song a few times you will realise that there is more to the song; read to see how the words are used and to find the story the song tells. Take notes on any information critical for your understanding of the song. While listening to the song, also make a vocabulary list of the most important words. (Use your Vocabulary Notebook/ Notes Appendix)
- 6 Try to determine what the lyrics mean and how the vocabulary words are used. Answer the questions on the next page and then write down your reflections and interpretations about the song.
- 7 Save your file as: First Name Family Name Songbird onto your Edmodo ReadBox folder.

READBOX**SONGBIRD****Name student & Class****Title of the song****Album****Artist****Year of release**

1 What kind of person is the songwriter ?

2 What kind of song is it ?

3 For whom, do you think, might this song have been written? Describe the characteristics of this person.

4 How do you think the singer/ songwriter feels ?

5 Where might this situation take place ?

6 What might be the message intended by the singer or songwriter ?

7 What images or metaphors does the singer or songwriter use to communicate his/
her message and/ or feelings ?

8 Please express your own reflections and interpretations about the song -
both the lyrics and the sound.

Follow-up activity

Now that you have uncovered the layers of meaning that lead to comprehension of the lyrics, it is time for your follow-up activity.

You can choose from the following activities:

- ☐ **Write a short story or a diary entry** from one of the characters in the song or continue the story the song tells (of about 250 words). Use StoryToolz (it is an online tool) to check how readable — or unreadable — your story/ diary entry is, before you upload it onto your Edmodo ReadBox folder.)
- ☐ **Create a lyric video.** You can use iMovie or Animoto to make it.
- ☐ **Make a song parody.**

The ultimate form of flattery is imitation. The ultimate form of stardom is someone making a parody of your song. Why not take that to an creative level and rewrite the lyrics to your chosen song ? (How ? Have a look at Wikihow)

Please fill in the details below:

I am aware that this project is due no later than: _____.

I will upload my digital Songbird to my personal Edmodo ReadBox folder no later than _____ and I will save a copy in my personal portfolio as well.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____