

good night, and good luck.



Lesson Plan 2

“Setting the mood with music”

Overview: Jazz singer Dianne Reeves sets the mood and frames the narrative for “Good Night, and Good Luck.” with her renditions of music of the ‘50s and before.

Suggested time allotment: 2 - 3 days to research and a day to present a report to the class.

Objectives

Students will:

1. Research the music Reeves sings and other similar songs from that era through websites, books and recordings.
2. Look at the overall impact of the music in the movie, but also explore the connection of songs to the events on screen (i.e. “When I Fall in Love,” “TV Is the Thing This Year,” “I’ve Got My Eyes on You,” and “One for My Baby” *).
3. Create an oral and audio presentation to show class members the important aspects of these songs. Emphasize what the music shows of the 1950s and how it adds dimension to the movie.

Standards: National Council of Teachers of English and International Reading Association Standards for English Language Arts:

4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
5. Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

7. Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.
8. Students use a variety of technological and informational resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.
12. Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information).

Resources and materials:

Websites with information:

- The R&B and jazz singer whose interludes frame the movie is Dianne Reeves. Of special note is the section with information about the part her songs played. <http://www.diannereeves.com>
- For more background on Blues, check the PBS multimedia presentation, <http://www.pbs.org/theblues>
- A Century of Jazz: From Blues to Bop, Swing to Hip-hop—a Hundred Years of Music, Musicians, Singers and Styles, by Roy Carr, Da Capo Press (1997)

* Note lyrics such as “...We’re drinking, my friend, to the end of a brief episode. So make it one for my baby and one more for the road.”

We cannot make good news out of bad practice.