



WS17 COLLEGE Lesson Plan

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Title: O'Connor Family Band

Length of Lesson: three classes (may vary)

Grade Level: College

Introduction:

This episode of WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour features Mark O'Connor, as in the O'Connor Method of teaching the violin. You may reference the following for more information on the O'Connor Method: <http://www.oconnormethod.com/index.html>
The O'Connor Method is a very specific method used for string teachers and students.

Description of Lesson/Activities & Procedures:

Activity 1:

Before Activity 1, and as an introduction, have the students reflect upon the history of radio shows. Ask them to reflect upon and try and imagine gathering around and listening to a radio show years ago. Then, activity 1 will have students compare and contrast this form of entertainment versus modern entertainment and technology. Have students consider the ways that each encourage community, and pros and cons of both forms. I think this also allows the students to be creative and imagine what it was like to only have a radio to listen to as the main source of entertainment, and how this encouraged family time as well. It also allows for some historical discussions about the radio, the time period when this was the entertainment source, and also really evokes that feeling of folk and Appalachian culture associated with the radio show. Within this episode of WoodSongs, have students listen to the sounds of the fiddle and violin. So, for activity 1, encourage students to simply listen; to hear the instruments presented to them within the show. Then, have them write down their reflections and comparisons. This will create an opportunity for discussion. Activity 1 focuses a great deal on the art of conversation and community encouragement and entertainment and community in the past versus modern forms.

Activity 2: Students will research the O'Connor Method and write down the main points and overall approach to teaching string instruments. Students will use reliable sources to explain the method. In addition, students will also be asked to explore and write about the history of the fiddle and violin. This informational writing piece will require students to cite three-five reliable sources. Activity 2 is the informational aspect of this set of plans.

Activity 3: At the beginning of this episode, Michael Johnathon performs a song and one of the lyrics that stands out to me is, "transformation is important". Ask students to reflect upon what this means to them and the ways that they feel that they have transformed from different times in their lives. Ask questions to prompt critical thinking. Then, have students create a short story or poem to depict their reflections. Students

are encouraged to review examples of Appalachian poetry and ballads as a reference for their creative work. It would be beneficial to find supplemental materials for students to reference for the poetry writing. It is also encouraged that they seek out resources on their own as references for this as well.

Vocabulary Within Lesson: Appalachia, Fiddle, O’Connor Method, Folk Music, Transformation, Ballad, Poetry

Goals & Objectives:

- Students will understand Originality and the way music and art encourage it
- Creativity encouraged through creating their own Appalachian poem or short story
- Encourages descriptive writing
- Encourages creative writing
- Students will learn the ways that music encourages a sense of community
- Understanding & Application of scholarly and reliable sources and documenting
- Creativity and thoughtfulness in poetry/short story design
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Creative Project/Presentation Scoring Sheet

Creativity/Presentation of material	/
	/
	/
	/
	/
	/
	/
Total	/100