

WS13 HIGH SCHOOL Lesson Plan

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WoodSongs Classroom Project

Title: Rising Above
Subject: Music, Language Arts, Art
Length of Lesson: Three Class Periods (May vary depending on class times)
Grade Level: High School

This episode of WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour features famous songwriter Jewel.

Jewel began as a folk singer. This show features not only music from her new album, but also features Jewel reading from her new autobiographical book, "Never Broken." Jewel speaks candidly about her family, relationships, home-life, and the very complex and difficult road for to her discovery as a musician. Jewel faced many challenges and trials. She was actually homeless for a time in her life. She also endured an abusive home life and was living on her own at a very young age. Jewel speaks and reads excerpts from her autobiography that explain these trials and also forgiveness. Jewel speaks about remaining true to who she really is as well.

Description of Lesson/Activities & Procedures:

Activity 1: The first class period, students will watch and/or listen to this episode of WoodSongs Old-Time Radio hour featuring Jewel. Then, there will be a brief ten minute discussion of the show which will be a warm-up exercise for their activity for the next class. The warm-up discussion could include topics of rising above challenges to become stronger and how lessons are learned often through some difficult times. Encourage students to reflect on the style of music featured in this episode. For instance, encourage students to think about folk music and the art of writing a ballad. Students will then work in small groups to discuss the art of folk music and writing a ballad. A few questions that may prompt this discussion include:

- How would you explain the power of music?
- List some musicians that move you, influence you
- Do you think a ballad evokes strong emotions?
- Have students make the connection of story-telling to music and ballads.
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Activity 2: Students will write a ballad in which they write about not giving up and persevering through difficult times. This is not group work. The ballad will include an example in which they themselves have persevered through a difficult time. The ballad will have the students focus on learning from difficult times. The ballad will encourage students to research other artists and learn more about folk music, ballads, and the ways that music relays a message and tells a story. Encourage students to really focus on the many ways that they are able to empower others through their stories of hope. How are they able to relay the message of rising above to empower others.

Tips for writing a ballad as listed on Purdue Owl: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
Ballads tell of an event. They were often used to spread the news, provide entertainment, or create a "bigger than real life" story.

Ballad Writing Tips (Purdue Owl)

- often have verses of four lines
- usually have a rhyming pattern: either abac, aabb or acbc (usually the easiest to rhyme)
- repetition often found in ballads
 - entire stanzas can be repeated like a song's chorus
- lines can be repeated but each time a certain word is changed

