

Intro to Writing Song Reviews

LO:- To listen with good focus
To know what the building bricks of a song are
To be able to sing a variety of songs with correct posture and clear diction
To be able to give opinions about music using appropriate music vocabulary

RESOURCES:-

SINGING

Warm ups-

<https://oakfield-academy.schudio.com/pupils/little-lessons/performing-arts-little-lesson-video-challenges>

Websites for singing

<https://www.karaoke.co.uk/>

Username: CParsons@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Password: oakfield

A variety of links to songs and song reviews

Activity sheets 1 and 2

ACTIVITIES:-

The following activities are all approx 15-20mins and can be used at any time in the second week back to give all students an opportunity to listen with focus, sing together and learn all about the process of song writing. The singing can be added in at any time using the website above (include warm ups) **All activities can be completed at home.**

Activity 1)

Recap on what we know about the features of a song from last week.

Listen to the following song on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIOVMHMNfJ4>) and label the lyrics sheet (Activity Sheet 1 below) with the key words INTRO, VERSE, PRE CHORUS, CHORUS, BRIDGE and OUTRO (Answers provided)

Activity 2)

Singing! Select a fave song from the selection of pupils' faves and sing using the Karaoke website. Ensure pupils warm up voices using one of the warm ups on the website (see link in resources box above)

Activity 3)

How to write a song review.

Read the following song reviews:-

<https://pitchfork.com/reviews/tracks/billie-eilish-my-future/>

<https://pitchfork.com/reviews/tracks/taylor-swift-betty/>

<https://www.vulture.com/2020/05/lady-gaga-ariana-grande-rain-on-me-song-review.html>

Discuss how they are written ie structure, style, language etc using Activity Sheet 1

Note to teacher: Encourage pupils to look for facts v opinions. Get them to highlight where the reviewer has used song lyrics to emphasise/support a point or described ANY features from the song. Discuss why this is important in a review.

Activity 4)

Using Activity 2 sheet write a brief song review of the following song:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iQxG8ZjYO8>

Try and use an equal balance of facts about the song (instruments, genre, lyrics, rhythms, dynamics, tempo etc) and opinions (how it makes you feel).

Activity Sheet I

Song Reviews

Read each song review and in the boxes below give examples of facts and opinions used by the reviewer and then answer the Q below.

| My Future by Billie Eilish | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>FACTS</u> | <u>OPINIONS</u> |
| | |

| Betty by Taylor Swift | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>FACTS</u> | <u>OPINIONS</u> |
| | |

| Rain on Me by Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande | |
|--|------------------------|
| <u>FACTS</u> | <u>OPINIONS</u> |
| | |

Q Why is important to have a good balance of fact and opinions in a review?

Q Make a list of words from all 3 reviews that attempt to make an impact/have an influence on the reader ie **MELODRAMATIC, HEAVY-HANDED, WIN etc**

SONG REVIEW

Tones and I – Dance Monkey

KEY WORDS – INTRO, VERSE, CHORUS, BRIDGE, OUTRO, TEMPO, DYNAMICS, PITCH, RHYTHMS, BEAT, VOCALS, INSTRUMENTATION, MOOD