

Music Lesson Plan

Grade: Third

Title: Over the River

Connections: Thanksgiving, art & music

Objectives and National Standards:

SW understand how subject matter taught in their classes is interrelated with music and art (8ab). Listen and describe what they hear (6bcd). Sing a song (1a), Listen to a story (8ab), Learn about "sleigh songs" (9ac).

Anticipatory: Questions - If an artist wants to put an image in our heads what does he/she usually do? (creates a picture)

Composers (those who write music) do the same thing with music. Some music has words, and some does not. Close your eyes and listen to this music. What do you see with your mind's eye?

Listen to "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson (MC4 CD8.26)

Procedures: Discuss with the children what we just heard. Let them talk and express opinions.

Look at the Grandma Moses print ("Over the River" 1945) and have them discuss what they see.

Listen to "Over the River and through the Wood" and display words on the screen. (MC 2 CD6.17)

Help children to see the similarities between the song and the painting. Talk about vocabulary in the song.

Is this song a Christmas song? The picture looks like Winter. No! In the 2nd verse we discover it is a Thanksgiving song. Discuss with them how some places have lots of snow at Thanksgiving.

Listen again to the song. Listen to the maraca. Pat the beat you hear. Is it even or uneven? (Uneven. long-short) Put the rhythmic pattern on the board. What is the composer trying to make you think of with this rhythm? (horse hooves)

Listen to the song again and sing along.

The song "Over the River" is known as a "Sleigh song". A song sung as people rode in the open sleighs.

Look at the Currier and Ives print "The Road - winter"

Look carefully at the picture. Sleigh bells around his belly. Why?

Look at the people. How are they dressed?

Jingle Bells is a Christmas song to us. But it is really a sleigh song.

Listen to the bells in this song. Even or uneven rhythm? Sing JB (MM2 CD 14.30)
Sing again and use jingle bells to keep the rhythm and steady beat as we sing.

Read a different version of "Over the River" by Lydia Child.

Close: Today we've seen how a subject (Thanksgiving) can be found in art, music and literature. What can you tell me about what we found in each art form?