



FROM SOUNDS TO PICTURES: STORYTELLING AND LISTENING

Introduction

This is an English and Art-based activity that encourages pupils to relate sound to shapes and art by drawing or painting (either abstract or figurative work) in response to some of the Minutes, using a popular children's book as an additional stimulus.

Year Groups

Key Stage 1 and lower Key stage 2

Learning Objectives

To listen and relate to a story about children who are inspired to make pictures from sounds.

To create original art works inspired by Minute of Listening minutes.

Minutes You Could Use For This Project

- i) A Walk in the Snow (Collection 1, #8)
- ii) Symphonie Fantastique, Movement 4 (Collection 1, #15)
- iii) Recording Angels, Wax Works pt 1 (Collection 1, #24)
- iv) The Bee Symphony (Collection 1, #54)
- v) Yeyi in the Forest (Collection 1, #22)
- vi) Tumblewash (Collection 1, #21)

These are some suggestions, but this activity can be used with almost any recording from Minute of Listening. You could try using one of the curriculum categories on the Minute of Listening website to link the activity to a specific topic.



Minute of Listening

Resources

Once Upon an Ordinary School Day by Colin McNaughton / Satoshi Kitamura

Paper

Art materials

Curriculum Links

KS1: English (Spoken language/reading/writing)

Art & Design

KS2 English (Spoken language/reading/writing)

Art & Design

Starter Activity

If possible, use the short story *Once Upon an Ordinary School Day* by Colin McNaughton and Satoshi Kitamura as an introduction to the session. Read the story to the class and discuss the use of music (by the teacher character) and colour (by the illustrator) in the book..

Activity 1: Listening and Storytelling

- Tell the class that they are also going to listen to some music and sounds and create their own art works in response to what they hear.
- In the story *Once Upon an Ordinary School Day*, the pupils imagine pictures when listening to the music and then write stories, but for this activity pupils are going to draw what they imagine.
- In the book, Mr Gee the teacher character says 'Just close your eyes, open your ears and listen' so you could start listening to the recordings with this phrase.
- Play the first minute, ask pupils to close their eyes and see (but not share) what comes into their head.



Minute of Listening

Activity 2: Drawing

- Play the same minute again, and explain that after this you want them to start drawing what they see or imagine. This could be a 'picture' as in the book, or more abstract shapes and colours.
- Play a minute recording as above, and then distribute more materials for the pupils to develop their art works.

Plenary

Encourage pupils to name their art works and to come up to the front of the class to share and describe what the recordings made them think of and what they have drawn.

Extension

Extension activities: Older pupils could discuss which artistic medium would work best for this type of work and be introduced to the idea and vocabulary of using a graphic language of shapes/colours (instead of figurative drawing) and what sounds they might represent (see the From Sounds to Pictures lesson plan).

During the plenary, pupils could try to interpret each others' work, linking back the art work to the minute it was inspired by.

Differentiation

Embedding: Learners see the link between the story in the starter activity and the art activity they undertake. They are able to create an individual response to one of the minutes using the medium of art and to state the link or theme that relates the art work to the minute.

Enhancing: Some will go further than this and make a more complex art work. Others may be able to explain in more detail how their art work relates to the minute that inspired it.

Extending: A few may go well beyond this and create complex art work that relates strongly to the original minute and shows good use of the medium employed. They may also use extended vocabulary including words relating to the inter-related dimensions of music, and confidently discuss their art work in relation to the original minute.