

Set a Poem to music

Level: Juniors

Goals:

1. Students will choose a favorite poem, set it to a rhythmic meter, and assign an original melody to the rhythm.
2. Students will apply prior knowledge of note values and assign a meter to each syllable of their poem.
3. They will set their poems to a melody in the key of C Major, following composition guidelines.

Connections to Curriculum:

III. Context

A. General

1. **Understand the role of music:** Articulate how the musical setting affects the feeling of a story: melody, texture and culture. Understand call and response, use of rhythmic pulse and improvisation.

Materials:

Pencils/pens
Staff paper

Sequence:

1. Have students start their composition by writing each line of the poem, triple-spaced, on lined paper. Each student should divide his or her entire poem into syllables.
2. Students should write note values in the space above the words, leaving a blank space between the notes and the words above. Then, they should write the time signature at the beginning of the first line.
3. At this point, the teacher should collect and grade each student's work using the first section of the Assessment rubric provided.
4. Return the work to students and instruct them to set their poems to a melody, following the guidelines on the Assignment Checklist.

Assessment:

Use the Assessment rubric provided. This checklist should be shared with the students.

