



UNEX Developing Written Skills

Title: Writing Music

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Keywords: #writing stories, # music #songs

Duration: 20 mins / depending on the students' level of knowledge

Description:

The main idea of this task is to provoke students' creativity while writing a short story. The teacher chooses a piece of music, an instrumental. The students write stories on the basis of the music they listen to. The Teacher can dictate the first line of the story. Students continue writing the story while listening, according to the way the music makes them feel.

Objectives:

1. developing students' writing skills;
2. writing a story;
3. provoking students' creativity

Activities:

Chooses an instrumental piece of music. Tell the students that they are going to write a story starting with "When he looked at her he.....". (The first line can be different, according to the Teacher's wishes or the students' interests). Students are told that they should continue the story while listening to a musical instrumental.

Play the music. If it conveys a strong atmosphere it will spark the students' creativity and almost "tell" them what to write. It can be nostalgic, pieceful, romantic, sad or frenetic etc.

After a short time tell students to turn their pieces of paper over and then dictate the same sentence again. Once again tell the students to write another story on some music, but this time play a contrasting one.

When the students are ready, in pairs, they show their two stories to their partner. Some partners read one of the stories to the class. The students then try to decide which bit of music it was written to.

Tips for trainers

The teacher should use musical activities sparingly, because they work best when they are unusual – something which makes writing special and provokes their creativity. Another thing the teacher should have in mind is that some students can't immediately respond to music.

The piece of music should not be longer than two-three minutes, otherwise it's possible lose students' interest.

Materials

- *Pieces of papers for students to write on;*
- *Pens or pencils;*
- *Two contrasting pieces of music, instrumental;*
- *Computer, smartphone or something to play the music on.*

Feedback

Have students completed the task? YES / NO

Have they enjoyed the task? YES / NO