

“Songs, Games & Morning Meeting” Presentation Summary based on presentation by Danny Brassell, Ph.D.

Welcome

This is the class –
Who wants to learn,
And read more books,
And make a better TOMORROW!

2, 4, 6, 8 –
What do we appreciate?
Reading!
Reading!
YEAH!!!!
Let's have some fun!

The Silly Animals

Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay
My, oh my, silly zebras say.
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay,
Zebras sing this song in a silly way!

Gip-a-gee-goo-gah, gip-a-gee-ay
My, oh my, silly geese always say.
Gip-a-gee-goo-gah, gip-a-gee-ay,
Geese sing this song in a silly way!

Pip-a-pee-poo-pah, pip-a-pee-ay
My, oh my, silly pigs like to say.
Pip-a-pee-poo-pah, pip-a-pee-ay,
Pigs sing this song in a silly way!

Why use songs, games & morning meetings?

- Gary Coleman: different strokes for different folks
- Harvard fact: the average person has a limited attention...
- The average person can sit and listen for about *17 minutes* (give or take 17 minutes)
- Translation: vary your activities
 - keep ‘em moving +
 - keep ‘em playing =
 - keep ‘em happy +
 - keep ‘em learning

Why music?

Music Helps Develop:

- Hand-Eye Coordination
- Memory Skills
- Concentration
- Problem Solving Skills
- Teamwork
- Self-Confidence/Self Esteem
- Time Management Skills

America, the Beautiful by Katharine Lee Bates

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good
With brotherhood
From sea...
To shining sea!
O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife
Who more than self the country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw
Confirm thy soul in self control
Thy liberty in law!
O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good
With brotherhood
From sea...
To shining sea!

How do we integrate music into our curricula?

- Music is reading: *It consists of a set of symbols used to represent ideas that everyone, regardless of language can understand.*

Teaching Idea

- Allow students to create songs to assist their phonemic awareness.

Big Black Bugs

Big black bugs bouncing balls on Bobby's bed.
Big black bugs biting butter spread on bread.
Big black bugs banging baseballs with a bat.
Big black bugs bursting blue balloons –
KERSPLAT!

- Music is social studies: *It reflects the times, country and origin of its creation.*

Teaching Ideas

- Sing songs/play instruments from around the world and discuss different cultures.
- Place students in groups and practice pitch/volume/etc. Show students how to work together when singing.
- Ask students to perform songs in front of audiences.

Seven Continents (beat of "Freres Jacques")

There are seven (repeat) –
There are seven (repeat) –
Continents (repeat) –
Continents (repeat) –
Europe, Asia, Africa (repeat) –
North & South America (repeat) –
Antarctica (repeat) –
Australia (repeat)!

- Music is math: *It is rhythmically based on subdivisions of time into fractions.*

Teaching Idea

- Students use addition and subtraction skills when working with measures and beats (e.g. creating and/or completing measures using quarter, half, eighth notes and their respective number of counts).

Place Value (beat of "Bippity, Boppity, Boo")

Look at the hundreds spot –
Look at the tens spot –
Look at the ones spot, too...
Put them together, and what do you get?
1-4-2.

- Music is science: *It is exact, specific and demands acoustics. Music scores are graphs which indicate frequencies, volume changes, melody, harmony, and intensities all at once with exact control of time.*

Teaching Ideas

- Put plastic tightly over a coffee can and secure with a rubber band. Place salt on the plastic. Tap a smaller can with a ruler to see the salt move. The salt moves because the plastic is vibrating due to the sound waves hitting it!
- Have students put glasses in order from the one with the least amount of water to the one with the most water. The instrument is actually the air column created by the space not filled up with water.

Parts of a Plant (beat of “Whoop! There It Is!”)

Flower, leaves, stem –
Roots! There it is!

Seasons of the Year (beat of “Noah’s Ark”)

Spring, summer, autumn & winter, winter.
Spring, summer, autumn & winter, winter.
Spring and summer (clap) Autumn & winter are the...
Seasons...of the...year!

Vocabulary Development

Can you create a song that teaches the underlined vocabulary words?

Tayshaun blew hard into his stryte, when his sala froped from downstairs, “Cut out that stryting. You’ll bother the clypers.” Tayshaun froped back, “But I need to practice my stryte for the verpand, Sala.”

Suddenly, Tayshaun’s Wala froped, “Listen to your Sala, or you’ll get no blasurn after supper.”

Tayshaun put down his stryte and dreamed of playing like his idol, Dizzy Gillespie. “Someday, I hope tons of folks come to my verpands to hear me play my stryte.”

Here’s what a class of 11th graders came up with in an hour (to the beat of “The Muppet Show”):

It’s time to play my music. It’s time to blow my stryte. It’s time to practice stryting in my bedroom tonight.

My parents keep on fropping, “You mustn’t blow your stryte! We know you love your bugle, but you can’t practice tonight!”

My Sala and my Wala, they just don’t understand. If I cannot rehearse here, I won’t play a verpand.

Though clypers keep complaining, I’ll loudly play my stryte. Even if I don’t get blasurn. I like ice cream for blasurn.

I’ll gladly skip my blasurn, & ignore the clypers, & ignore my Wala, & ignore my Sala who keeps on fropping, so I can play my stryte in a verpand!

Here's how a group of 8th graders taught Ebonics with a song (*to the beat of "This Old Man"*):

This old **pimp**, he played one. He says **gat** but we say gun with a knick-knack, this is **whack**, give your dog a bone. This old pimp went **rollin'** home.

This old pimp, he played two. He says **kicks** but we say shoe with a knick-knack, this is whack, give your dog a bone. This old pimp went rollin' home.

This old pimp, he played three. His friends are **homies, dogs and G's** with a knick-knack, this is whack, give your dog a bone. This old pimp went rollin' home.

This old pimp, he played four. He got **chin-checked**, hit the floor with a knick-knack, this is whack, give your dog a bone. This old pimp went rollin' home.

This old pimp, he played five. "**Boy got smoked**" means not alive with a knick-knack, this is whack, give your dog a bone. This old pimp went rollin' home.

This old pimp, he played six, calls his girls **hoodrats or tricks** with a knick-knack, this is whack, give your dog a bone. This old pimp went rollin' home.

This old pimp, he played seven. **O.G. riders** go to heaven with a knick-knack, this is whack, give your dog a bone. This old pimp went rollin' home

This old pimp, he played eight. **Tight** and **proper** both mean great with a knick-knack, this is whack, give your dog a bone. This old pimp went rollin' home.

This old pimp, he played nine. **Bling-bling** means his cash is fine with a knick-knack, this is whack, give your dog a bone. This old pimp went rollin' home.

This old pimp, he played ten. **Riders pimp this one-more-gen** with a knick-knack, this is whack, give your dog a bone. This old pimp went rollin' home.

Before my classes took tests, we developed a song to relax us:

Take Our Test

(lyrics by Danny Brassell, based on the melody from "Be Our Guest" in Disney's Beauty and the Beast)

Take our test! Take our test!

Put your name above the rest.

To the right you write the date there.

Who would ask for any less?

Use a pencil - make it sharp. You are now ready to start.

Read directions very slowly, One by one, part by part.

You'll do great! You'll impress!

You are heads above the rest.

And remember you're the student who's the best.

You're the smartest one.

Now come and have some fun.

Take our test!

Take our test!

Take our test!

Chants

For those who are self-conscious about their singing voices, chants are another great way to introduce rhythm and repetition in your classroom. Remember, motions with chants and music always assist in students' memory process:

Days of the Week (English)

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday –

(clap)

The days of the week.

Dias de la Semana (Spanish)

domingo

lunes

martes

miercoles

jueves

viernes

sabado –

(clap)

los dias de la semana.

Ugh Ugh Uga Ug (Gibberish)

ugh

ooo

aya

ugha

uya

egga

urra –

(clap)

ugh ugh uga ug.

What about? What about? What about our literacy shout?

Read!

Read!

Read!

Read!

Write, write, write, write,

write, write, write, write.

Morning Routine

I wake up in the morning – and make my bed.
I step into the shower – and wash my head.
I brush my teeth – and comb my hair.
I fix a big breakfast – and eat all that is there.
I dress myself – and walk to school.
I come ready to learn – and that’s why I’m cool.

Drink Milk! (to the beat of “Do-Re-Mi”)

Do (dough) – the thing I use to buy milk.
Re (Ray) – the guy who sells me milk.
Mi (me) – the guy drinking milk.
Fa (far) – a long, long way for milk.
So – I need another milk.
La – I need another milk.
Ti (tea) – No thanks, I’m drinking milk, and it helps me get real strong.

Clap Your Name

Bippity, Bippity, Bumble Bee,
tell me what your name should be...

1. Clap it!
2. Snap it!
3. Stomp it!
4. Wiggle it!
5. Whisper it!
6. Say it silently!

Morning Meeting

Students like being the teacher.

- Model – I do.
- Guided Practice – We do.
- Independent Practice – You do.

Circle of Life
Daily News
Weather
Famous Birthdays
Thought of the Day
Personal Profile
Day’s Agenda
Class Goals & Objectives

e.g.

It's *Morning Meeting*, starring...

Rogelio as the teacher

Julietta as our anchorperson

Juanito with the weather and plants report

Lashonda reads us today's famous birthdays and fun facts

Today's thought of the day is brought to us by Muriel

Victor shares his personal profile

Cynthia reviews today's agenda...

And all of Room 12 will recite our goals and objectives for today!

Games!

Mary Poppins was right!

Games Are Good.

Repeat. Games Are Good.

Games Allow Kids to Master New Skills & Concepts, such as:

- Number and shape recognition, grouping and counting;
- Letter recognition and reading;
- Visual perception and color recognition;
- Eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity;
- Etc.

Just by virtue of playing them, board games can teach important social skills, such as communicating verbally, sharing, waiting, taking turns and enjoying interaction with others. - Alvin Rosenfeld

Over 100 ideas for games are attached to this handout. Games discussed in seminar include:

1. Aroosta-Sha
2. Name That Rule!
3. Getting-to-Know-You Scavenger Hunt
4. Zingo Bingo
5. Same/Different
6. Animal to Activity
7. Story, Story
8. Tangrams
9. BEANS!
10. Optical Illusions

I hope you enjoyed my presentation on songs, games & morning meetings. It is my goal to constantly improve my presentations, and I would appreciate any feedback you could offer. Please think of me if your school, district or organization ever needs training, as I strive to present highly engaging, fun and informative workshops. You may contact me via my website at www.lazyreaders.com. All the best! – Danny 😊