



## Lesson Plan

# Musical Storymaking

## Summary

1. Subject(s): Writing
2. Objective: Students will use music to develop a fictional storyline.

**SEL Goal:** The end-goal is to have students have a grasp on how impactful music can be. Through this, students will utilize music to develop a storyline that clearly provides an emotional response with their audience.

5. Time Allotment: 3 class periods

## Directions

Music is such an important component of storytelling and with the mass availability of streaming services, our students are *watching* more than *reading* more than ever. I believe blending the two is a pathway to get students who are reluctant readers engaged. With that, I begin with [this video](#) as an anchor. While Elf is widely known as a positive, funny, and uplifting movie, a few tweaks can make it into a storyline that is quite different. I supplement it with [this video](#). Both do a great job explaining how different movies can be with just a few tweaks.

Then I use gradual release of responsibility with this to work to avoid writer's block and general frustration amongst my students. I typically play each song twice to ensure my students have had enough time brainstorming and then writing/drawing what they are envisioning.

Day 1- Play music, students draw out the scene they are picturing
Day 2- I play music, students write out a story.
Days 3&4- Students find music, write a story
Day 5- Students share their stories with music. Evaluates if the audience experienced emotional responses that each writer intended for.



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## Day 1

For each instrumental song, draw an image of what you see. Then highlight the emotion(s) that you feel with it as well. Later on, we will build a story using music. This is step 1.

Song 1: [Link Here](#)

Emotion(s):

Song 2: [Link Here](#)

Emotion(s):



Song 3: [Link Here](#)

Emotion(s):

Song 4: [Link Here](#)

Emotion(s):



Song 5: [Link Here](#)

Emotion(s):

Song 6: [Link Here](#)

Emotion(s):



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## Day 2

Now let's practice building a storyline based on the songs that I choose. Do your best to connect each song to an ongoing storyline. Think of your main character(s), where is the story taking place (setting), what your characters look like/sound like (character traits), etc. As the story progresses, think of the main conflict and ultimately the solution. This is a free-write activity so do your best and put on your creative writing cap!

Introduction (Song 1):

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Rising Action (Song 2):

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Climax (Song 3):

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Falling Action (Song 4):

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Resolution (Song 5):

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## Days 3 &4

Now it's your turn to find music to help guide a storyline. Remember, each song must build on each other as your storyline unfolds. Each song should be connected to an ongoing story. Your job is to come up with five (instrumental) songs. This should follow the plot (introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution).

Song 1	
Song 2	
Song 3	
Song 4	
Song 5	

### Outline

Introduction (Song 1):

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Rising Action (Song 2):

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Climax (Song 3):

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Falling Action (Song 4):

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Resolution (Song 5):

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