

# Noteable News

## Hi All!

As a teacher, one of the best things we can do is to keep learning. I learnt something the other day, in one of those moments that none of us have, a lesson that we changed at the last minute. You know the ones, when you are supposed to have a practical class and you have a headache, or when the kids are exhausted and just flop into class with no energy. Well it was one of those times with a year 7 class, so I grabbed my copy of 'Phantom of the Opera' DVD. I have had this for a while but have not actually used it in class. I was also a bit worried about how year 7s (12 years old) would deal with it. They loved it!! Really loved it. They cheered during the kiss and got scared during the chase. They did have to have the conflicting emotions explained to them but they all went away singing the tunes in very high voices - ha!. I set it up by talking about the chandelier etc early on and had a few stops along the way to explain things. It was a great way to introduce some basic Opera style singing in context.

Jenny

## What's New?

**Free sample download** - The new musical game - 'You Can't Say That' is now available on the website. The sample version is on the homepage and the full version is available for purchase. 'You Can't Say That' consists of cards with a Musical word (instrument, musical term or style) for the class to guess, and a list of words that the person describing that musical word cannot use. They might have to describe 'bass guitar' and they are not able to say 'bass, low, strings, guitar, fret etc. This is an excellent game to really re-enforce meaning and learning. It also will give you a good chance to see where your class is at.

## Very Sad Music Joke:

Q: What do you call a musical fish?

A: A piano tuna.



## Teacher Tips!

Remember to reward good behaviour. Now this is hardly rocket science but one of those things it is easy to forget, especially when teaching high school. Think of the number of times we threaten to remove practical activities, compared to the number of times we offer a special treat. To help us move into reward mode here are a few suggestions. Make your own list and keep it in your planner. Almost anything can be a reward if you set it up right at the beginning of the class even if the class finds it funny or naff - they still get a kick out of reward time. Here is a basic list of ideas that you could use:

- Listening diaries,
- Musical bingo,
- Free time on the instruments (??),
- Musical show and tell with a students favorite piece.
- Best theme composed in 5 minutes.
- Music games (hangman etc)

These activities can happen in the last 10 minutes of lessons. Happy classrooms!

## Quote of the Day:

"All music is folk music. I ain't never heard no horse sing a song."

Louis Armstrong

## What's in Good Stuff

Good Stuff 5 is a very practical issue based around programme music and musical imagery. Composition ideas, aural, listening activities and lots of useful ideas which you can use in your classroom immediately.



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