Laura McShane

i see the rhythm 35 min

Objective:

Appreciate origin of unique American music through African-American experience and history

Big Idea:

Music is poetry. Poetry is universal.

1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 10 min

The book i see the rhythm by Toyomi Igus with paintings by Michele Wood is broken into historical segments:

Origins - Africa 1500-1740
Slave Songs - 1776-1861
Birth of the Blues - 1863-1912
Ragtime - 1890-1920
Jazz Beginnings- 1895-1923
Sounds of Swing - 1924-1935
Tribute to Jazz Women - 1920-1939
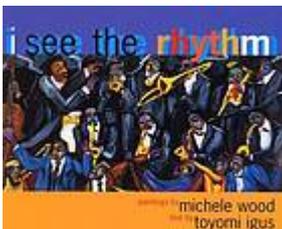Be Bop - 1939-1956
Cool Jazz - 1949-1957
Spirit of Gospel - 1932-1960
Rhythm and Blues/Soul - 1953-1967
Black Rock - 1955-1969
Funk- 1967-1976
Rap/Hip Hop - 1970 -present

Introduce the entire book as a "picture walk" tour of each era and significant historical dates

2. Investigation and New Learning 15 min

Break each of the 14 historical segments into 15 minute explorations to be covered, ideally throughout National Poetry Month. Share the daily poems featured at Poets.org

--Read the i see the rhythm poems and listen to musical clips from each era. Ask students to move to the music and explore the different ways their bodies can respond to the rhythms. How does what something sounds like connect to what it feels like?

--Use a roll of butcher paper and markers to create a timeline, marking each period and having students add vocabulary words, people, and events to the appropriate era as you discuss them. As students read the book on their own, have them add other key words they come across.

3. Review & Check for Understanding 30 min

Additional resources: https://sharemylesson.com/teaching-resource/i-see-rhythm-teachers-guide-271109

Note: From Lee & Low Books: Please share your own ideas for how to use i see the rhythm in the classroom. We'll be pleased to post your work on the web site for other teachers to use. Email us your lesson plans at communityprograms@cbookpress.org.