

A Symphony of Whales

Third Grade
Adapted by M Goldman

CORE SUBJECT AREA

ELA

ART FORM + ELEMENTS

Music, Melody, Style

MSCCR STANDARDS

RI: 3.9 Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic

MSCCR CREATIVE ARTS STANDARDS

MU: Re9.1.3 Evaluate musical works, establishing criteria, and describe appropriateness to the context

DURATION

45 minutes

LESSON SEQUENCE

Have your students watch a YouTube video of small orchestra that boards a small boat and goes out to play and listen to whale sounds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-dR3uEvDSQ>

1. TTW read the story of A Symphony of Whales by Steve Schuch using guided reading reinforcing vocabulary along the way. TLW make predictions of the solutions to the problem of the story.
2. TTW will play a sample of symphonic piece of music and have students record the definition. (A long piece of musical composition for a full orchestra, has four movements always in this order
Mvt. 1 - Fast, Mvt. 2 - Slow, Mvt. 3 - Dance-like, Mvt. 4 - Fast.)
3. TLW hear a short recording of “whale’s songs.”

OBJECTIVES

TSW learn how to define symphony. TSW listen to whale tunes and identify the animal made noises. Then, the student will compare and contrast two pieces of music.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Reading Street text or trade book A Symphony of Whales, youtube access, displays, pencils, and paper.

VOCABULARY

Symphony
Melody
Compare
Contrast

[https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5Trznre92c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5Trznre92c)

4. TTW use a Venn Diagram and with help from students, will record how a symphony is alike and different from whale songs.

Same- both have pitches, rhythms, and repetition, both are used to convey a message
Different - Symphonies have 4 movements, they are composed (written down), performed by an orchestra
Whale songs- freestyle, not written down, performed by animals at will

Let's discuss the two music makers in the videos? (Music was made by instruments and music was made by humpback whales.)

EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Composer notes: Each day of the week, TTW play a piece of music from a composer and TLW record in a chart the composer's name, birth-death date, country of birth, famous piece, and a fun fact. Attachments are included.

TLW could write compound sentences using information from Venn diagram.

SOURCES

Wikipedia can be used for composer notes.