

# The ABC's of POP

*26 practical tips on how to incorporate pop music in your classroom without compromising "real music" instruction*

## **Animated Movie Music**

- This is “pop” music for your younger students (and some older ones, too!)
- Summer movies
- Look for “remixes” of old classics (one of my daughter’s favorite songs is *Cruela Devil* by Selena Gomez)

## **Band Tour Unit**

- Rock & Rap Middle School
  - By Sheree Sevilla and Suzanne Standsberry
  - Cottonwood Press, Inc.
  - (800) 864-4297
  - [www.cottonwoodpress.com](http://www.cottonwoodpress.com)

## **Concert Songs**

- One for you, one for me
- Crowd pleasers
- Perform them in style
- See what they will do if you give them one of “their songs, too?”

## **Drum Sticks**

- Big kids will play along with almost anything if you give them drumsticks!
- \$2.00 a pair from Music Supply Closet
  - <http://www.musicsupplycloset.com/>
  - Phone: 877-278-4469
  - online item #W5B

## **Eighties ROCK!!**

- Find ways to bring *your* pop music into their world
- Use something from your musically defining generation (civil rights songs, disco, punk, hip hop, etc.)

## **Form**

- Music Homework! Oh NO!!!
- But MOM...my music teacher said I HAVE to watch MTV!!!

## **Guitar Hero**

- Great for “game day” or tournaments
- Kids are learning the “classics”

**Have an Idea...**

- Know what is “cool” to them
- It’s research! Ask for their favorites
- Please don’t deny their opinion (how can you listen to that stuff???)

**I Am Here to...**

- ...teach you what you don’t know.
  - I am NOT here to be your DJ!
- This helps address the issue of, “Why can’t we listen to this all the time?”

**Just Try It!**

- Commit to trying just one idea from Music Symposium
- Be prepared to set up the song differently than you are used to

**Kids’ Channels**

- More research for you!
- Theme songs to Disney and Nickelodeon
- Who lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue?
- Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?
- Hannah Montana, Jonas Brothers, Miranda Cosgrove, etc.

**Learn Songs on Classroom Instruments**

- Recorder-some you can play and some they can play
- Arrange for Boomwhackers or other classroom instruments

**Music in the Background**

- VERY rare
- You have to be careful and “read” your class...this sometimes backfires!
- Prescreen EVERYTHING! ☺

**Neil Diamond!!**

- Do you have to use a graphic organizer? Use a Venn Diagram
- “Away to America” from Music Connection 5<sup>th</sup> grade text
- “America” by Neil Diamond...it’s especially rewarding when your principal walks in during this lesson!

**Ostinato**

- “In the End” by Linkin Park
- Ask them for others

### **Pop Singing Style**

- This is sometimes OK! (Fancy choral people, don't hate!)
- Teach correct singing techniques THEN throw in style

### **Question Their Tastes**

- Why do you like it?
- Use terms from class
- We are not creating performers, we are creating "consumers of music." (my favorite quote from my favorite music teacher!)

### **Rhythm Play-Alongs**

- I sneak them in
- Use for steady beat or time signature/meter lessons
- Rhythm play-along game

### **Self-Evaluation...**

- ...Guitar Hero style!!!
- If this were a song in Guitar Hero, could you play it on expert, hard, medium, easy, or would you get booed off the stage?

### **Trap Sets**

- This makes your students feel like rock stars!
- Give them something to remember

### **Unexpected**

- This isn't the norm
- A good diet is not all made of candy (despite what our kids try to tell us!)

### **Valentine Bulletin Board**

- "Put a Song in Your Heart"
- Make a giant heart
- Let them write the title of the song they love the most

### **Wall Decoration**

- "If It Sounds Good, It Is Good"
- Get some "Tiger Beat" magazines and decorate with the posters, CD covers of some of your favorites, etc.
- This helps show that this is a *shared environment* and that their opinions matter

### **Xylophone Borduns**

- Let them accompany a CD
- Let them figure out a song they know

**You Tube**

- Find a Christmas song
- Find a version of it by a current famous musician
- Try this with other famous songs, such as patriotic songs

**Zone of Proximal Development**

- Build on what they know
- American psychologist Jerome Bruner (1982) describes the zone of proximal development as “the child’s ability to recognize the value of hinges and props even before he is conscious of their full significance.”
- They understand music they love long before they study music