

Lesson Plan by Alice Asako Walle

LISTEN - Illustrating the Music

Materials: A few different sized Rubber bands, 1 plastic container (ie: small bowl or bucket), 1 metal container (ie: small bowl or empty box)

An echo is a sound that is repeated because the sound waves are reflected. Sound waves can bounce off smooth, hard objects like how a ball bounces off the ground. However, echoes are always not heard. If the sound waves meet a soft surface, such as a blanket, the sound will not bounce back. The sound is instead absorbed.

Composer Azalea Twining used a variety of sounds and color in her piece “Echo” which was masterfully performed by Molly Barth. Let’s see if you can create a variety of echo sounds!

- 1) Put the rubber band around two of your fingers and pluck. What do you hear? What happens to the pitch when you stretch the band?
- 2) Put the rubber bands around the plastic container and then pluck. What do you hear? What is the volume of the sound compared to step 1? Try using different widths of rubber bands around the container and compare the sounds to one another. Do they all have the same pitch?
- 3) Put rubber bands around the metal container and then pluck. What do you hear? What is the volume of the sound compared to step 1 and 2?

DIG DEEPER: Compare and Contrast with another piece.

Composer Azalea Twining was inspired by the Greek mythology character Echo when writing this piece. Echo was a magical wood nymph, a female magical creature who lived in the forest. Echo had the most beautiful voice, was the most gentle & kind, and possessed a good and loving heart. Echo was very musical as well.

LISTEN – Educational Activities to accompany *ECHO* by composer Azalea Twining

Stories continue to inspire composers today. One example is John Williams and his famous piece “Empire Strikes Back” inspired by the character Darth Vader. Darth Vader is a menacing villain and a powerful military commander. He is part cyborg, kept alive only by his intricate robotic suit, fully equipped with a breathing apparatus and electronic limbs. He has abilities such as telekinesis and mind control.

Listen and analyze to the two pieces “Echo” and “Empire Strikes Back” and reflect how and why the musical pieces match the character it is inspired by.

Circle all the apply

	Echo by Azalea Twining	Empire Strikes Back by John Williams
Tempo:	Slow moderato fast	Slow moderato fast
Dynamics:	Piano mezzopiano forte	Piano mezzopiano forte
Mood:	Happy. Sad. Calm. Scared. Excited. Mysterious. Ominous. Peaceful. Angry. Other: _____	Happy. Sad. Calm. Scared. Excited. Mysterious. Ominous. Peaceful. Angry. Other: _____
Tonality	Major Minor	Major Minor
Name of Instrument(s) Heard		
Did the music portray the character well? Why or Why not?		



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Anything else you noticed?		
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Extra Challenge: Find another piece inspired by a fictional character and compare it to “Echo” and “Empire Strikes Back.”

CREATE AND MAKE - Compose your own piece

Materials: Paper, pencil, crayons, instrument(s) of your choice or a found sound from your environment.

- 1) Choose a character that you would like to portray musically. It can be a character from a story you know, a real person, or a fictional character made up by you.
- 2) Find or draw an image of the character.
- 3) Fill out the character profile chart.

What is the character’s name?	
Is the character Good or Bad? Hero or Villain?	
Describe where this character lives:	
Describe this character’s physical features: (small, tall, fast, slow, strong, etc)	



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Describe why this character is important or what is special about this character:	
What are 3 words to describe this character?	

4) Using the Character Profile Chart and the image of your character, let’s brainstorm how to bring this character to life with music! Fill out the Music composition brainstorm chart. When you are finished, use this chart to help play a short musical piece using your instrument(s).

The character I am composing about is: _____	
Pitches	Low middle high
Tempo	Slow moderato fast
Dynamics	piano mezzoforte forte
Mood:	Happy calm sad exciting Nervous mysterious angry Other: _____
What is the animal doing?	
Other notes:	

Fun challenge: Once you practice it a few times, play it for someone else and see if they can describe who your character is.