



Forgiveness Element 2: The Power of Song

Music

The Power of Song

<p>Age Level 12 - Adulthood</p> <p>Time 10 minutes</p> <p>Resources</p> <p>2 videos (links in unit) 2 audio songs:</p> <p>“Consider This” On <i>Gratitude</i> CD, Track 4, at www.fullcirclelearning.org</p> <p>“When Somebody Wrongs You” On <i>True Heroes</i> CD, Track 3, at www.fullcirclelearning.org</p> <p>Objectives</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore music as a tool for forgiveness 2. Learn the science of sound waves 3. Experiment to make an instrument 	<p>Teachers, Parents or Self-Guided Learners will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read stories, song lyrics and view videos about the power of music to promote healing and forgiveness. 2. Discuss the role music has played in the life of the family. 3. Learn a song that helps promote forgiveness when you are feeling uneasy. 4. Write a song about forgiveness based on personal experience. 5. Learn about sound waves. 6. Make vocal percussion instruments. 7. Perform songs.
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The Power of Song

Two mothers sat down to cry in a recording studio. They had come to record a song about war. On the same day, new American troops had been sent to fight a war in a Middle Eastern country, and a friend had lost a son fighting a war in a West African country. The two mothers mourned all the young people who would be lost from all three countries. They could barely complete the project.

Listen to the song, “Consider This.”

Read, View and Discuss

Discuss the feelings of mothers who lose their children in a war, no matter what the cause. They breathe the same breath in and out with the perpetrators. Music helps them through their struggles as it strengthens their faith, hope and forgiveness.

Some children face even greater sorrow than mothers. Jean Paul Samputu, a man from Rwanda, lost his parents in a violent civil war. He told a powerful story of forgiveness, friendship and music. Read his story and see the video on the following link.

<https://playingforchange.com/videos/jean-paul-samputu-music-and-forgiveness-20-years-after-the-genocide/>

Music helped calm Jean Paul’s nerves and guide his thoughts and feelings through a very difficult period, so he could express that most challenging habit of heart, forgiveness. Out of this experience, he gained freedom.

A Latino boy across the ocean often faced rough times in high school. Others wanted him to join violent gangs or called him names because he came from a different country and ethnic group. He often sang himself to sleep at night with a song he had learned in his Full-Circle Learning classroom. Soon he was able to convince other students not to join gangs. The song was called, When Somebody Wrongs You. He sang the song softly to himself in bed and, the next day, tried to practice it. Soon he was able to persuade others not to join gangs. He told them to stop choosing violence, because forgiveness is a freer feeling than physical power over others. This is the same message Jean Paul discovered in Rwanda.

Can Music Prevent Despair?

Salif Diarra, from Burkina Faso, talks about music and its power to give hope. Although he had no education, he played an instrument and later taught other children to do the same. Through the struggles he faced, he may have prevented many conflicts by turning to music at an early age. View the video and discuss the role of music in his life.

<https://shop.playingforchange.com/>

Discuss:

Has anyone in your circle of family or friends found music to be a gift of hope? Has music freed them and helped them become more forgiving? Music, when used for good, is a tool to uplift the hearts and to exalt the soul.

Write a song to about forgiveness. First choose a metaphor—some object or action that reminds you of the act of forgiveness.

Use that object in the first stanza to explain an example about something that really happened.

Show hope in the third stanza, letting your voice rise or change from a minor to a major key.

See the example on the next page!

Example:

Forgiveness, like a shovel in the sand,

_____.

Oooo, oooh, Forgiveness.

It sprayed the one who felt the pain.

Who said who felt the greatest gain?

Oooo, oooh, Forgiveness.

When I offered up my hand,

_____.

Oooo, oooh, Forgiveness

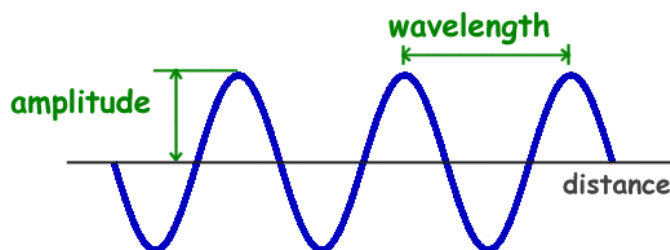
Using the example or one of your own, prepare the words and melody of your song.

The Science of Percussion

A sound wave is a vibration that travels through gas, liquid or solids. Thus, it can travel on an ocean wave or through the air or on the string of an instrument or the head of a drum. If the audio wave travels at a certain rate, humans can hear it. Only animals can hear certain “frequencies” or speeds of rippling

A porpoise, a musician may hear different

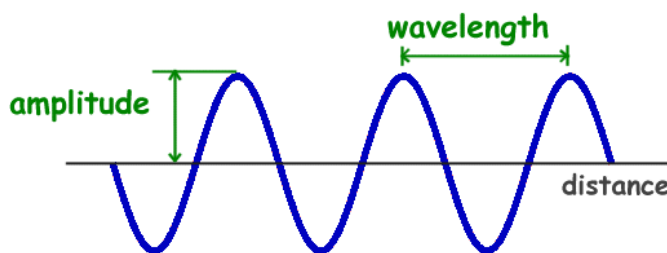
sound waves. A dog and a human all hear sounds.



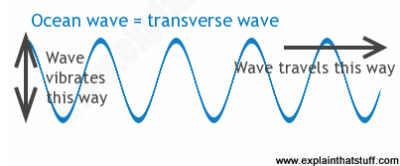
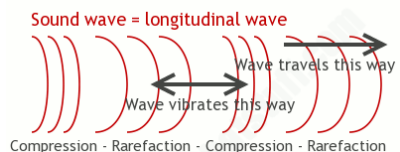
Decibels

measure the noise level and amplitude measures the force of the wave.

Think about the undulating waves in the ocean and how they might make a different sound than a loud crash of something metal falling from a truck onto a tarred road.



Comparing sound and ocean waves



With your own mouth, compare the shushing sound of waves lapping on a shore compared to the sound of a tin pan vibrating when tapped with a spoon. You can create each sound by putting your tongue on the roof of your mouth. Have one person tap or smacks the tin pan, while a partner blows air out in and out with pursed lips to make the transverse wave sound of the beachfront waves.

Practice alternating these sounds as accompaniment to the song you created, so the smoothest sounds accompany the verses and the louder decibels punctuate the stanzas where you want listeners to share the great swells of emotion in your song.

Gather at least two to four performers, to make sure you can present the vocal music along with the percussion. Perform your song on the street, in the yard, or before an audience of listeners at home or at school. You may also want to share it on video. Discuss your theme and answer questions.