



Karaoke Kollege

Using music and YouTube to practice reading, math, and comprehension

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Introduction

- In this program we will learn how we can use something as fun as music and YouTube to practice reading, math, and comprehension
- We will use a karaoke file, of a popular song from YouTube, to sing along and read the lyrics with as much confidence as possible
- Finally, we will calculate our words per minute to see how fast we read, and review the material that we just read; lyric comprehension is akin to reading poetry

Sequence of Activities

1. Read without music
2. Sing with music
3. Calculate our speed
4. Reflect on the meaning

Reading without music

- Find and print out the lyrics to a popular song that the children in the class are aware of
 - Copy and paste these from the internet into a word processor
- Check the lyrics to make sure that the words are not too difficult and that they are age appropriate
- Use a word processor to do a word count of the file – this will be used at the end of the lesson
- Have the students read the lyrics as a story without music

Singing with Music

- Using a website like www.keepvid.com, download a lyrics and/or karaoke version of the song that you used as a lyrical example
- Have the students sing along, reminding them that they can either use the printout that they were given, or simply by watching the screen
- Finally, the students should reflect on how much more they enjoyed the karaoke file, as opposed to reading from the paper

Calculate our speed

- This part can be used in a couple of ways:
 - If there is an odd/prime number of words/lyrics in your example, the students can practice rounding
 - After they round, the students can then practice division, by dividing the number of words/lyrics (calculated earlier) by the number of minutes
 - This WPM calculation can be used to show them how fast and well they can read, despite their test scores
- If you have access to YouTube in the classroom, you can play the example at 2X speed, and actually have them DOUBLE an already impressive speed

Comprehension

- Songs can be used as an excellent means of comprehension – as great as the speed that we just demonstrated was, we are not learning to read, but rather, reading to learn
- Teach the students that song lyrics are like poetry; and if one can comprehend poetry, the daily exercises about main idea, supporting ideas, etc., can be viewed through song analysis
- Talk about the similes and metaphors contained in the song; talk about what they really mean

Reflection

- Practicing homework and learning skills can be fun
 - Reading
 - Math
 - Comprehension
- YouTube is very popular with young people. It takes very little effort to start watching the lyric/karaoke versions, as opposed to the official videos, to practice reading, math, and comprehension
- Go home and try to do all of these steps for as many songs that you can

Conclusion

- It is difficult to teach students in traditional manners when they are constantly exposed to media
- By using the media that they intrinsically seek out, we can encourage positive learning practices when doing something as fun as listening and singing along to music
- Students are already learning the art of memorization and rehearsal, they just need to be made aware of how to develop these skills
- I have seen very poor readers make huge improvements after just a few weeks of karaoke use