

Name: _____

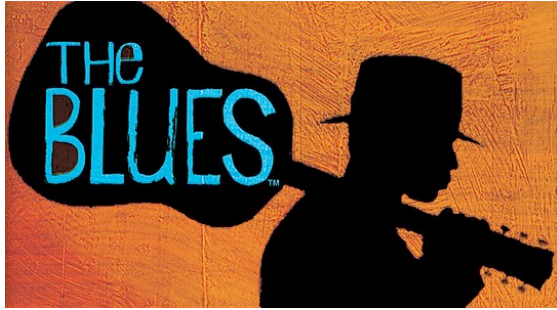
Date: _____

Cohort: _____

Learning Target:

I can write blues lyrics from the perspective of a character from my book club book.

Blues Song Part 1: Lyrics



What makes a blues lyric?

The basic blues lyrics are called “Delta Blues” because they come from the Mississippi Delta region. They share (1) a theme, (2) the same number of lines, (3) a repetition pattern, and (4) a general number of syllables. Below, analyze the following blues songs for what makes blues lyrics.

Example Blues Lyrics

1. Fine and Mellow (Billie Holiday)

My man don't love me
and he treats me oh so mean.
My man don't love me
and he treats me awful mean.
He's the lowest man
that I've ever seen.

2. Three O'Clock Blues (B. B. King)

It's three o'clock in the morning
and I can't even close my eyes.
Three o'clock in the morning
and I can't even close my eyes.
Can't find my baby
And I can't be satisfied.

3. De Blues (Randy Sabien & Bob Phillips)

A B C B A D D
A B C B A
A B C B A D-D
A B C B A
G F# G F# G A
G F# G A F# D D

4. Forced to Leave (The Red Umbrella)

I was forced to leave my parents
and make it on my own.
I was forced to leave my parents
and make it on my own.
I left them back in Cuba
with violence and revolution.

I. Take some guesses: what makes a blues lyric?

a) What are some things these blues songs have in common (see intro above for ideas)?

b) What do you *wonder* about blues lyrics? _____

II. 4 Requirements for blues lyrics (Mr. Shieh will tell you these):

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

III. Write your own last 2 lines for “Three o’clock blues”:

It's three o'clock in the morning
and I can't even close my eyes.
Three o'clock in the morning
and I can't even close my eyes.

IV. Brainstorm some possible lyric topics

a) *pick your perspective*

The Red Umbrella: Lucía, Frankie, Mamá, Papá, Ivette, Mrs. Baxter, Mr. Baxter

Persepolis: Marji, Mother, Father, Anoosh

Red Scarf Girl: Ji-li, Ji-yong, Mom, Dad, Grandma, Song Po-po, An-Yi, Bai Shan

b) *what is important to your character?*

c) *what struggles or obstacles does your character have at different points in the book?*

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V. Use the lines below to write as many different lyrics as possible.

Don't worry if the syllables aren't right. You can edit the lyrics later for your final draft.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

V. Pick one of your lyrics, edit it, and copy your final draft below.

- ___ Does each line has 5-8 syllables?
- ___ Are lines 1 & 2 similar to lines 3 & 4?
- ___ Do my lyrics express a struggle or difficulty from a book club character?

Grading Rubric

4	3	2	1
<p>BLUES CONTENT My lyrics express a struggle or difficulty for a character in my book club book using powerful language.</p> <p>BLUES FORM My lyrics have 6 lines, the first two pairs of lines are similar, and each line is 5-8 syllables.</p>	<p>My lyrics express a struggle or difficulty for a character in my book club book.</p> <p>My lyrics have 6 lines, the first two pairs of lines are similar, and each line is 5-8 syllables.</p>	<p>My lyrics express a struggle or difficulty, but are simple and lack depth</p> <p>Lyrics are missing one of the requirements for blues form.</p>	<p>My lyrics either do not express a struggle or difficulty, or do not come from my book club book.</p> <p>Lyrics are missing two of the requirements of the blues form, or are incomplete.</p>

