



TRACY CHAPMAN LESSON PLAN

Key Stage 2 / 45-75 minutes (across 1-2 lessons)

This lesson pack has been created to support classroom teachers in celebrating LGBT+ History Month through musical activity. This lesson focuses on introducing musician and prominent LGBT+ figure Tracy Chapman. Through exploration of Tracy Chapman's identity and music, pupils will have an opportunity to discuss ideas within the classroom about intersectionality, change, acceptance, and their own identity.

Lesson Objectives

- To learn about the life and identity of Tracy Chapman
- To sing a Tracy Chapman song
- To write lyrics about identity

Time	Suggested Activity	Resource needed
2-5 min	<p>Look at the Tracy Chapman quote <i>'I'd like to live as if only love mattered'</i> Discuss the quote as a class or in small groups.</p> <p>Prompt questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does this quote mean to you? • What might this quote mean to the LGBT+ community? <p><i>(Opportunity for wider discussion/context about the LGBT+ community)</i></p>	PowerPoint
2-5 min	<p>Introduce Tracy Chapman</p> <p>With photo on PowerPoint and the short bio below, introduce Tracy Chapman:</p> <p><i>Tracy Chapman is an African American singer songwriter who rose to popularity in the 1980's. She is a multi-award winning, platinu-selling artist. Throughout her career, she has been a pioneer for social justice and change.</i></p> <p><i>She was born in Ohio in 1964. She started to learn ukulele aged 3 and by the age of 8 was playing guitar and writing her own songs.</i></p>	PowerPoint

	<p><i>Tracy Chapman is also widely known/accepted as a lesbian, although she never spoke to the press officially about her sexuality.</i></p>	
10-15 min	<p>Watch and discuss performance of ‘Talkin’ ‘bout a Revolution’ from the Nelson Mandela 70th Birthday Tribute.</p> <p>Prompt questions that can be asked before watching the performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think the song might be about? • What do you think the lyrics meant to Tracy Chapman? • What do the lyrics mean to you? • How many times does she sing ‘like a whisper’ <p>Learn the refrain of Talkin’ ‘bout a revolution’ as a class.</p> <p>Singing as a class tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak each line of the chorus first, tapping the syllables • Sing each line individually as a call and response • Sing the chorus as a class unaccompanied • Sing the chorus as a class with the backing track/YouTube performance 	<p>PowerPoint Video of Talkin’ ‘bout a Revolution performance</p>
10-20 min	<p>Discuss the context of the ‘Talkin Bout a Revolution’ performance.</p> <p>Discuss how during that time it would be rare to see somebody perform on such a global platform who was accepted as both a member of the LGBT+ community and the global majority.</p> <p>Introduce the idea of intersectionality.</p> <p>Discuss how intersectionality is looking at a person’s different identities, and how they relate to each other as a whole, rather than individual characteristics. This may cause challenges in people’s lives, but also may make them unique.</p> <p>It's important to note to students that some elements of our identity we may be born with, other elements, we may not develop till later in our life/as adults.</p> <p>Prompt questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are some of the different elements of our own identities?</i> • <i>How do they make us unique?</i> • <i>What makes us different and what makes us similar?</i> <p>Optional activity: Complete ‘Puzzle Pieces’ worksheet- pupils fill in different puzzle pieces with different elements that make up their identity.</p> <p><i>Activity can be completed whilst listening to Tracy Chapman playlist.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint • Tracy Chapman Playlist • Puzzle Pieces worksheet

20-30 min	<p>Begin 'In My Power', lyric writing activity.</p> <p>Discussion of how song writing is a tool that artists like Tracy Chapman can use to explore their own identity, speak their truth, and pioneer change. It can allow people to express themselves.</p> <p>Using the lyric writing worksheet, pupils can create a four-line chorus with the title 'In My Power', about their own identity and what makes them unique.</p> <p>Have 'In My Power' backing track playing whilst pupils write their chorus.</p> <p>After writing the lyrics, pupils can practice performing their chorus as a rap over the backing track.</p> <p>Option for pupils to perform their chorus to the class at the end of the lesson.</p>	<p>-PowerPoint</p> <p>-In My Power Song writing worksheet.</p> <p>-In My Power Backing track.</p>
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