



Lesson: Interpreting the Music through Images

OVERVIEW

Creating a slideshow from the text of the music is a good way for students to help them understand the expressive nature of the music, as well as to become part of the creative process.

LEARNING GOAL

- Students will identify descriptive words from the lyrics of *The Golden Queen*
- Students will research and find or create images to interpret the text
- Students will create a slideshow from a portion of the lyrics to enhance their choral performance

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Students will have rehearsed “The Golden Queen” and can perform it expressively

RESOURCES & MATERIALS

- *Creating A Slideshow Worksheet* with text of *The Golden Queen* ([Verse 1](#), [Verse 2](#), [Verse 3](#)) for each student
- Recording of *The Golden Queen* ([click link to download](#) or email ChoralQuest@composersforum.org for a free Catalog CD)
- Slideshow software: PowerPoint, Presi, etc.

PROCESS

Note that segments of this process could be assigned as homework.

1. With direction from the teacher, students will divide into groups of two, and choose or be assigned one of the three verses of *The Golden Queen*.
2. With their partner, students read their assigned verse out loud and brainstorm key words that might lend themselves to an image for a slide. They circle these key words on the attached worksheet.
3. Students then search for images to fit their chosen words, or create original work of their own. The attached worksheet will help them collect, organize and develop their slideshow. Encourage students to create original artwork. Remind students that images in their slideshow should capture the mood and meaning of the words.
4. Students then listen to a recording of their verse, and connect their images and music into their slideshow.

ASSESSMENT

1. The teacher will select 3 panels of 5 students each to view the student-created slideshows. Students should not be judging the section of the poem they worked on.
2. Each panel will select the best slide show to be used in conjunction with the choir's performance of *The Golden Queen*, adding another student-centered aspect to this work.

EXTENSIONS

Choose another sun song or instrumental work about the sun and create a new slideshow. If students choose an instrumental work, it will be interesting to see how they make meaning in the music through their selection of images.

Some examples might be:

Beatles – *Here Comes the Sun* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bj1AesMflf8>

Edvard Grieg – *Morning Mood* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdF988wigUM>

Richard Strauss – *Thus Spake Zarathustra* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-QFj59PON4>

Bob Marley – *Sun is Shining* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBDVarvFqYI>

John Denver – *Sunshine on my Shoulders* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diwuu_r6GJE

Donovan – *Sunshine Superman* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9zxi4RE0O8>

Jerod Impichchaachaaha Tate – *Taloowa' Chipota (Children's Songs): Hashiat Kochcha (Sunrise)*
<http://composersforum.org/content/jerod-impichchaachaaha-tate>

THE GOLDEN QUEEN

Slide Show Worksheet

Name/s _____

Verse 1

Text

Slide Image

The golden queen strides across the sky

Gathering the people's eager eyes

They stare in awe, they stare with love

Until the light is diminished up above.

Their golden names glint their last,

As the shadow of night is cast.

But the sun is revived, it glows again,

It shines its light across the glen.



THE GOLDEN QUEEN

Slide Show Worksheet

Name/s _____

Verse 2

Text

Slide Image

A lone sunflower drops a healthy seed,

Trusting fate will be a supportive lead.

It plants itself in the warm soil, asleep yet awake,

Preparing itself for the great path it will take.

A green sprout shoots out of the ground,

Growing and growing, safe and sound.



THE GOLDEN QUEEN

Slide Show Worksheet

Name/s _____

Verse 3

Text

Slide Image

Beautiful petals began to appear

And the plant knew adulthood was near.

The plant watched the Golden Majesty,

Seeking guidance away from the growing catastrophe.

She fears death is close,

So she bears a seed to live,

And lives.

