



LESSON PLAN: Li Bai and His Beloved Poem

OVERVIEW

Students will learn more about Li Bai and his famous poem by reading and discussing his life as a poet and reading additional translations of the poem's text. They will compare the lyrics used by Chen Yi for *Thinking of My Home* to two other translations of Li Bai's poem. Finally they will have an opportunity to process and create their own interpretations through expressive language and images.

LEARNING GOAL

Students will deepen their connections to the poet, poem, and song by reading about the poet and interpreting the poem in their own words, with color and shapes, or with both.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- Electronic or paper copies of the student reading, "Li Bai: Ancient Chinese Poet"
- Organizer for text and visual interpretations of the song and the poem. If your students typically respond with BIG ideas and projects, have extra paper on hand.
- Art materials
- Chen Yi Video #1 as posted on the ChoralQuest® website and available on Youtube [here](#).

PROCESS

1. Direct students to read the article "Li Bai: Ancient Chinese Poet" and be prepared to discuss what they noted in the reading that was of interest to them.
2. Ask students for their key observations about the poet and the poem. Note the three translations of the poem and identify and analyze the similarities and differences.
3. Ask students to think about a personal way to express their take on the poem and its meaning. Encourage them to think in expressive language (perhaps writing a personal statements about the poem or other words that describe the mood or feelings sparked by the poem), but also visually. They can sketching images that express their thoughts about the text, subject, and mood.

EXTENSION

- View the first Chen Yi Video, "The Poetry of Thinking of My Home" and hear Chen Yi talk about the poem with middle school students.
- Using key words, search for other translations of the poem and introduce them into the discussion of the similarities and differences in various translations.

ASSESSMENT

The student responses to Li Bai's poem collected and documented on the organizer included with this lesson provides evidence of the level of student understanding of the song lyrics and the song. Assess their work using music response standards or writing standards already in place in your classroom.

Responding to Li Bai's Poem

When we listen carefully to poetry, our minds and imaginations often bring up feelings, memories, pictures, new thoughts and ideas. As you read translations of *Thinking of My Home*, use this page to capture what's in your mind. You might start with colors, pictures, shapes – or perhaps with words and phrases that help you describe feelings, memories, images and new ideas. There are **no wrong answers** in this activity.

Words that help me describe what I see think, feel, and hear in Li Bai's poetry

Colors, shapes, and pictures I imagine

(Use other side if you need more space)

Name _____ Date _____