



Henry V the Musical!

This activity can be used at any point in the curriculum or as a fun concluding activity.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Recall the use of music in the Guthrie's production of *Henry V*
- Interpret *Henry V* via music
- Assemble a collection of songs that represent *Henry V*
- Design a soundscape for *Henry V*

INSTRUCTIONS

Step One - Reflection: The music in a production can subtly influence the play's mood and how characters are interpreted. Ask students to consider the sound design of Mikael Sulaiman and the compositions of Jack Herrick in the Guthrie's production with the following questions:

- What kind of mood did the music create?
- How did the music help you know if situations were comic or serious?
- What did the music tell you about the characters?

Step Two - Ideation: Ask the students to imagine how they would recreate *Henry V* as a musical. Consider the following questions:

- What style of music would you use?
- What would be important songs to help advance the plot?
- How would you represent battles in song?
- If a major character (like Henry, the Dauphin or Katherine) had a solo, what song would they sing?

Step Three - Creation: Students create a class soundtrack for a version of *Henry V* in the jukebox musical style, using popular songs. This could be a list of songs that follow the general arc of the play from beginning to end or songs from the perspective of one character that follow that character's journey through the play. They should be encouraged to think of songs that could be sung by a single character or multiple characters, or that could underscore a monologue or scene. Have fun with it! Students should choose at least five to six songs per act or one song per scene. This can be an individual assignment or done in groups.