Lesson One: Our Story - The Three Little Butterfly Brothers

Empire State Creates: Teaching Artist-Led Activities for Everyone

Project Title: Musical Storytelling  
Age(s): 7-8 year-old (2nd-3rd grades)  
Time: 40 - 45 minutes  
Arts Discipline: Music

### ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE

**Goal(s):**
- Choosing a story as the basis for our musical composition
- Watch Companion Video 1

**Materials:**
- A Children Story book
- Notebook (for building your vocabulary)

**New Word(s)**
- **Composer**: Someone who writes music.
- **Any “new word” from the story** (write them down on your notebook with their definition)

**Examples** (from our story):
- **Creep in**: enter slowly, to gradually start to affect or change something
- **Parted**: left, departed
- **In spite of**: despite, regardless of
- **Shone**: past tense of the verb shine
- **Ceased**: stopped
- **Sorrow**: sadness
- **Till**: until

**NYS Arts Learning Standards (select no more than 2 - student audiences only)**
- Re (Responding) 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work
- Re (Responding) 8: Interpret meaning in artistic work

### STEPS

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<th>Step #1</th>
<th>• First the class will choose a story that will be used as the basis or background for its musical composition. It should be one story for the entire class and not one per student. Choose a short story filled with descriptive words as this will help later with the music. Print out copies for everyone.</th>
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<td>Step #2</td>
<td>• Take turns reading the chosen story aloud to familiarize yourselves with it.</td>
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### Step #3
- Using your notebooks, you (students) will write down any word you do not know as well as its meaning (ask your teacher for help, or use the dictionary). Since we will turn words from the story into music, it is important that you understand every word, so do not be afraid to ask if you do not know something.

### Step #4
- Working in groups (4 or 5 students per group) break down the story by writing down the following:
  
  *(Example from our story: The Three Little Butterfly Brothers)*

  1. **How many characters:** Three Butterfly brothers: one white, one Red, one Yellow, The Red & Yellow Tulip, the White Lily, the Sun
  2. **Where the story takes place:** Outside in the field and in the rain
  3. **Plot (what happens):** 3 butterfly brothers seek shelter from the rain
  4. **How the story ends:** Overcoming adversity, the three brothers finally make it home by staying and working together
  5. **Can you draw a morale from the story? (What lesson does it teach you?):** When faced with adversity, if you do not abandon your principles or your family, in the end you will succeed.

### Activity Modifications (as needed):
- Depending on the students’ grades the story can either be:
  - *For the young ones (k-1):* a short children story, limerick, or poem
  - *For 2-3 graders:* a short story or one particular chapter from a book
  - *For 4-5 graders:* This can become an ELA project where students will write an original story.
    This will require many sessions to develop and write, but can be extremely rewarding.
- The choice of the story can reflect the cultural background or need of the students’ body. The one rule you must follow is that it should be in a language the ENTIRE class can read and understand.

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