

# Engagement Activities for "Louis and Beethoven"

## 1. Sound and Silence Exploration

Have students close their eyes and listen carefully to the sounds around them for one minute. Afterward, invite them to share what they heard and how it made them feel. Connect this to Louis's experience of losing his hearing and the emotions tied to sound.

## 2. Letter to Beethoven

Ask students to quickly write a short letter to Beethoven, expressing how they feel about his music and what they admire about his story. Encourage them to share their thoughts with a partner, focusing on the connections between their feelings and Louis's admiration for Beethoven.

## 3. Musical Emotion Match

Play short clips of three different Beethoven pieces (e.g., 5th Symphony, Moonlight Sonata, 7th Symphony) and ask students to quickly jot down the emotions they think each piece conveys. Discuss as a class how music can express feelings, similar to how Louis relates to Beethoven's struggles.

## 4. Anger and Acceptance Discussion

Prompt students to discuss in pairs: "What are some ways people deal with feelings of anger or frustration?" After a couple of minutes, ask a few pairs to share their ideas. Connect this to Louis's journey of dealing with his anger about going deaf.

## 5. The Power of Letters

Show a quick excerpt from the Heilingenstadt Testament and invite students to reflect on how writing can be a powerful outlet for emotions. Ask them to share in groups how writing can help in expressing feelings, similar to how Louis admired Beethoven's honesty.

# Would You Rather Questions

**1. Would you rather be a brilliant composer like Beethoven but struggle with hearing, or be able to hear perfectly but never create music?**

Discuss the value of creativity versus the ability to experience sound.

**2. Would you rather be famous for your music but face personal challenges like Beethoven, or live quietly and happily without fame?**

Encourage students to think about the trade-offs between public recognition and personal well-being.

**3. Would you rather have the ability to hear but not appreciate music, or be deaf but experience the world through music in your own way?**

Prompt students to consider how they perceive the world and the role of music in their lives.

## Deep Question

**How can music connect people with different experiences, like Louis and Beethoven?**

This question encourages students to think about the universal language of music and its ability to bridge gaps between diverse backgrounds and challenges.

## Applied Scenario-Based Question

**Imagine you are Louis, and you've just discovered Beethoven's music. How would you share this music with your friends who have never heard it?**

This question asks students to apply their knowledge of music appreciation and social interaction to promote understanding and enjoyment of Beethoven's work.

## Thought Experiment

**What if Beethoven had never gone deaf? How might his music have changed, and how would that affect the way we view his legacy today?**

This thought experiment challenges students to think critically about the influence of personal experiences on artistic expression.

## **Riddles**

**1. I can be heard but not seen, I can express emotions without a voice. What am I?**

(Answer: Music)

**2. I was written but never sent, a testament to a struggle – who am I?**

(Answer: Heilingenstadt Testament)

**3. I am a boy who learns about music and love, my story is filled with hope. Who am I?**

(Answer: Louis)