

Engagement Activities for the Topic of William and His Musical Journey

1. Musical Connections

Ask students to think of a song or piece of music that makes them feel happy or connected to others. Have them share their choice with a partner, explaining why it resonates with them. This activity encourages students to connect personally with the theme of music and friendship.

2. Fugue Discovery

Play a short clip of Bach's *Little Fugue in G minor*. After listening, ask students to jot down or share one word or feeling that comes to mind when they hear the piece. This activity helps activate prior knowledge about music and introduces the concept of fugues.

3. Character Reflection

Display the names "William" and "Wilhelm" on the board. Ask students to brainstorm what they think are the similarities and differences between the two boys based on their names and backgrounds. Encourage them to consider how names can influence identity and experience.

4. Whistle It Out

Invite students to whistle or hum a melody they enjoy. After a few moments, ask them to share where they first heard it or why they like it. This activity engages students in exploring how music can be a shared experience, similar to how William hears the fugue in various places.

5. Art and Emotion

Show an image of a painting that represents loneliness or joy (not necessarily related to the story). Ask students to discuss in pairs what emotions the painting evokes and how it relates to William's experiences. This quick reflection encourages students to think about the emotional impact of art.

Would You Rather Questions

1. Would you rather have a busy family that loves you or a big family that has time for you?

This question prompts students to consider the dynamics of relationships and family structures in relation to William's experience.

2. Would you rather find a hidden talent like playing an instrument or discover a new passion, like painting?

This question encourages students to think about personal interests and the joy of discovering new skills, much like William finds joy in music.

3. Would you rather have a friend who shares your interests or a friend who introduces you to new things?

This question ties into William's friendship with Carl and the idea of connections through shared and new experiences.

Deep Question

How does music help build connections between people?

This question invites students to reflect on the universal language of music and its power to create friendships and community, much like in William's story.

Applied Scenario-Based Question

Imagine you are in a new city and feel lonely like William. You hear a familiar tune playing nearby. How would you approach finding out more about it and making connections with others?

This question challenges students to apply their problem-solving skills and think creatively about overcoming loneliness through music.

Thought Experiment

If you could choose any piece of music to represent your life story, what would it be and why?

This thought experiment encourages students to think deeply about their own experiences, emotions, and how music can reflect their personal journeys.

Riddles

1. What has keys but can't open locks, and can make you feel both happy and sad? (Answer: A piano)

2. I can be loud or soft, but I never speak. I can bring you joy, or make you weep. What am I? (Answer: Music)

3. I'm a type of music that tells a story without words, often played on a piano or other instruments. What am I? (Answer: A fugue)