

Engagement Activities for Mozart's The Magic Flute

1. Musical Emotions

Play a short excerpt from Mozart's The Magic Flute and ask students to close their eyes and listen. After the music ends, have a brief discussion about how the music made them feel. Encourage them to use descriptive words like happy, sad, excited, or calm.

2. Character Matching

Display images of key characters from The Magic Flute (like Papageno, Pamina, and Sarastro) on a board. Ask students to quickly match each character with a word that describes them (e.g., brave, funny, wise). This will help them begin thinking about character traits in the opera.

3. Sound and Movement

Invite students to create sounds that represent different elements of the story, like a bird (for Papageno) or a mysterious sound (for the trials). Have them make the sounds in response to prompts, encouraging them to use their voices or claps. This engages their creativity and introduces them to the themes of the opera.

4. What's in a Name?

Write the title "The Magic Flute" on the board. Ask students to brainstorm what they think might be magical about the flute. Encourage them to share their ideas, which helps activate their prior knowledge about music and magic.

5. Quick Drawing Challenge

Provide each student with a piece of paper and ask them to draw a scene they imagine could happen in The Magic Flute after hearing a brief summary. Give them just a couple of minutes and then allow a few students to share their drawings. This encourages imagination and connection to the story.

“Would You Rather” Questions

1. Would you rather have a magic flute that can make anyone happy or a magic bell that can call animals to help you?

Encourages students to think about the power of music and connection with nature.

2. Would you rather be a brave hero like Tamino or a clever and funny character like Papageno?

Prompts discussions about characteristics and the roles of different characters in stories.

3. Would you rather listen to beautiful music all day or watch exciting performances of plays and operas?

Encourages students to reflect on the different forms of entertainment and art.

Deep Question

How does music in *The Magic Flute* help tell the story and express the characters’ feelings?

This question encourages students to analyze the relationship between music and storytelling, promoting deeper thinking about the elements of opera.

Applied Scenario-Based Question

Imagine you found a magic flute that can create wonderful music. How would you use it to solve a problem in your school?

This question asks students to apply their knowledge of music's power to real-life situations, fostering creativity and problem-solving skills.

Thought Experiment

What if the characters in *The Magic Flute* could travel to our time? How would they react to modern music?

This prompt encourages students to think creatively about how characters might perceive the world today, fostering imaginative thinking.

Riddles

- 1. What can sing without a voice, and can open doors with a melody? (Answer: A flute)**
- 2. I am a character who loves to joke, with feathers and a heart, I'm never broke. Who am I? (Answer: Papageno)**
- 3. I am a trial of heart and mind, in a quest for wisdom, what will you find? (Answer: The trials of Tamino)**

These engagement activities and questions will set the stage for an exciting and enriching exploration of Mozart's The Magic Flute!