

# Lesson Seed: Emma's Magical Experience with Debussy

## Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- **Identify** key characteristics of Debussy's music and its historical context (Recall).
- **Analyze** the emotions and themes present in selected pieces from Debussy's *Children's Corner* (Analysis).
- **Create** a short dance or movement sequence inspired by one of the pieces, demonstrating understanding of its mood and themes (Application).

## Prior Knowledge & Cue Sets

- **Foundational Knowledge:** Students should be familiar with basic musical concepts (e.g., rhythm, melody) and have some understanding of music genres.
- **Cueing Strategies:**
  1. **Discussion Prompt:** Ask students about their favorite types of music and how those make them feel.
  2. **Visual Aid:** Show pictures of Claude Debussy and various musical instruments, encouraging students to make connections.
  3. **Real-World Connection:** Share a short story about how music can transport us to different times and places, similar to Emma's experience.

## Direct Instruction Strategies

1. **Explicit Instruction:** Begin with a mini-lecture on Claude Debussy, his life, and the essence of his music, using guided notes for students to fill in.
2. **Multimedia Presentation:** Play excerpts from *Children's Corner*, allowing students to listen while following along with a visual presentation of the piece descriptions.
3. **Inquiry-Based Exploration:** Facilitate a group discussion on how music can tell stories or evoke emotions, prompting students to share experiences related to music.

## Student Practice & Application

- **Independent Activities:**
  1. **Listening Journal:** Students listen to a piece from *Children's Corner* and write down their feelings, thoughts, and any imagery that comes to mind.

2. **Creative Response:** Choose one piece from Debussy's suite and create a visual art piece that represents their interpretation.
  3. **Reflection Worksheet:** Complete a worksheet that asks specific questions about the music, including favorite parts and emotional responses.
- **Collaborative Activities:**
    1. **Group Dance Creation:** In small groups, students create a short dance or movement sequence inspired by a chosen piece, focusing on expressing its themes.
    2. **Think-Pair-Share:** Discuss in pairs how Debussy might be poking fun at traditional music education in *Doctor Gradus ad Parnassus* and share insights with the class.
    3. **Concept Mapping:** Collaboratively create a concept map linking Debussy's music to themes, emotions, and their personal connections.

## Formative Assessments

1. **Exit Tickets:** Have each student write one key takeaway about Debussy and what they learned about classical music.
2. **Quick Concept Quiz:** Conduct a brief quiz with questions about the pieces of music discussed and their emotional themes.
3. **Peer Assessment:** After the dance presentations, students provide constructive feedback to each other based on a simple rubric.

## Deep Thinking & Reflection

1. How do the themes in Debussy's music connect to our own experiences with stories or emotions?
2. In what ways can music shape our perceptions of historical figures and events?
3. Why do you think Emma's perspective on classical music changed after her experiences in Paris?
4. What might Debussy have been trying to communicate through his playful style in *Doctor Gradus ad Parnassus*?
5. How can dance or movement help express what music makes us feel?

This lesson will engage students in learning about music through a narrative lens, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of classical music while fostering creativity and critical thinking.