

education

ROUNDAABOUTTHEATRECOMPANY

Name: _____
Date: _____

How can a person or character from popular culture inspire the lyrics to a song?

Stephen Sondheim is known for drawing his inspiration from a variety of sources (examples: fairy tales, works of art, as well as the artists' life, historical figures and current events)

- 1.) As a class, count off 1 to 6.
- 2.) Refer below to see which character connects to the number you were assigned.

- 1: Snow White
- 2: The Big Bad Wolf
- 3: The Mona Lisa
- 4: Jack the Ripper
- 5: Abraham Lincoln
- 6: Barack Obama

Based on your assigned character, do your best to fill in the following brainstorming prompts:

- 3.) Create a list of words that you think describe the physical characteristics of your character.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

- 4.) Create a list of words that you think describe the personality of your character

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

- 5.) Create a list of words that you think describe the emotional life of your character.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

6.) What do you think your character wants?

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7.) Once you have independently finished writing answers to the questions above, form a group with those who wrote about the same character as you. Share the words you came up with for each brainstorming prompt.

8.) As a group, write the lyrics to a song from the point of view of your character. Consider your list of words when writing your song. Your song should have at least two verses and a chorus that repeats. (Do not use your character's name in the song or the title!)

9.) After your group has written your lyrics, try and set the lyrics to some sort of melody.

10.) Take time to rehearse your songs. If you're feeling extra creative, you can even add choreography.

11.) Each group will present their songs in front of the class.

12.) After each group presents, the class will guess which character was the inspiration for that group's song and offer an explanation, based on the lyrics, as to how they figured it out.