

CONCERT HALL



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Keywords:

beauty, aesthetics, senses, disability, art, sound, music, harmony

Presentation materials:

- equipment for playing music
- classical music track, e.g, 'The Four Seasons'
- letter from Ann
- paper and pens for students

Stimuli:

Introduce the following scenario to children:

Your family takes you to an orchestra performance in the big city. This is your first time there. You are all dressed up when you enter a large hall with almost a thousand people in it. After a moment, a deep silence falls on the room. A light appears on stage and elegantly dressed people sit by their instruments. The music begins. The orchestra plays 'The Four Seasons' by Vivaldi.

Play a fragment from one of Vivaldi's Four Seasons and let the children listen to it for a moment. This music has a wide range of emotions: from melancholy to ecstatic joy. You could also play a different piece of classical music: your favourite or one of the pieces that children learn during school music classes. Remember to have the recording prepared in advance, making sure the quality is good. To heighten the mood of the session, you could also dress up, for example, in a bow tie or elegant dress, etc.

Warm-up questions:

What did you feel when you heard the music?

Did you "see" something when you listened to the song?

The story continues:

You close your eyes and listen with delight to the beautiful sounds of the strings. There is a girl sitting next to you who is looking at the orchestra with full attention. She seems to be a bit sad. When you leave the philharmonic hall, you feel someone poking you. It's the same girl who sat next to you during the concert. She puts an envelope in your hand and runs away. When you come back home, you open it and find a short letter..

Ask a student to read the letter aloud.

Hey. My name is Ann and I can't hear sounds since birth. I never heard sounds but I read many times that music is "beautiful". I came to the philharmonic hall, hoping that I would feel somehow the beauty of music. But unfortunately I only saw people moving with their instruments. Could you please write back to me, explaining what makes music so beautiful? I would be very grateful. If you want to help me, here's my address.

Thankfully,

Ann

More Warm-up questions:

Would you help Ann?

Can you explain music to someone who has never heard it before?

What is the difference between the noise of instruments and the music of instruments?

Give the children time to write a few sentences that they would write to Ann. Choose a few children to read their letters to the rest of the class.

Task question:

What is beauty?

Additional questions:

What makes music beautiful?

What is music?

What is sound?

What is harmony?

What is the rhythm?

Is it possible to find the rhythm somewhere else than music?

Does your mood change when you listen to music?

Can pop or rap music be beautiful?

Is folk music and classical music beautiful in the same way?