

Lesson Plan: Drum, Drum, Drum!: Rhythm And Poetry

- Overview

Tito Puente, Mambo King and *Drum Dream Girl* feature young people who love using drums to create rhythm for music. Like music, poetry has a rhythm or “beat.” In this lesson, your students will listen to the rhythm in poetry and act as the “beat” in reciting poetry.

- Resources & Preparation
 - Materials and Technology

The books *Tito Puente, Mambo King* and *Drum Dream Girl*

Variety of poems with strong rhythm – from anthologies and/or web sites like www.poetry4kids.com

- Instructional Plan
 - Student Objectives:
 - Listen for rhythm in poetry.
 - 1. Explain that rhythm in poetry is the “beat” of the words. Find a poem you particularly like with strong rhythm OR use a common nursery rhyme like this one to read to the class:

One, two,

Buckle my shoe.

Three, four,

Shut the door.

Five, six,

Pick up sticks.

Seven, eight,

Lay them straight.

Nine, ten,

Do it again!

2. Ask half of the class to use their hands to make a 4/4 “beat” on their desks.
3. Lead the second half of the class to recite the poem over the “beat.”
4. Switch halves – the “beat” students recite the poem and the “recite” students measure out the beat.
5. With this “beat” in mind, read *Tito Puente* or *Drum Dream Girl* out loud to students.