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Curriculum Study

TOPIC: DEVELOPING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND AN
APPRECIATION OF POETRY AMONG FORM THREE
STUDENTS THROUGH THE USE OF MUSIC.

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of using music to develop a positive attitude and an enhanced writing ability in response to poetry. The study sought to assist students to increase their appreciation and understanding of poetry, as well as to improve their powers of analysis, which informs their ability to write. The study was conducted during a four-week period, and was divided into three stages comprising ten lessons. The target group was Form 3 P.

Since the study aimed at developing a positive attitude to poetry through music, the entire study concentrated on the listening and reading of song lyrics. Stage I focused on the all of elements of poetry, with the exception of literary devices. Thus, theme, imagery, rhythm, rhyme/structure, mood and tone comprised stage one, while stage II concentrated on certain literary devices, which students have difficulty in understanding. These were the metaphor, extended metaphor, humour and irony. Learning outcomes were assessed using pre-evaluative/post-evaluative questionnaires, opinionnaires, pre and post-tests and personal journal entries.

The findings indicated that music positively affected their understanding, appreciation and powers of analysis. Results also indicated that students had positive impressions of the use of music as a learning strategy as it positively affected their appreciation and performance.