



PETER AND THE WOLF
Study Guide



Introduction

Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev (Ser-GAY Pr-CO-fee-ef) wrote PETER AND THE WOLF in 1936. Prokofiev had learned to love music from a very young age and wanted to create a fun way to introduce children to the orchestra. He wrote a story about a boy named Peter who outwits a hungry wolf. He then created a special musical theme for each character in the story and assigned each theme to a different instrument in the orchestra. Usually when Peter and the Wolf is performed, a narrator reads the story while an orchestra plays the music.

Suggested Classroom Activities Incorporating Core Standards

Standard T.C.2 for grades 2-6: Read, listen to, and tell stories from a variety of cultures, genres and styles There are many different ways to tell stories. Have the class brainstorm together to create a list of different ways. (Examples may include: books, movies, pictures, dance, animation, acting, singing, puppet shows etc.) Refer to this list throughout the year and find ways to incorporate different storytelling methods into lessons.

Standard T.CR.1 for grades K-6: Develop imagination to create artistic ideas and work
Tell your students that they are going to listen to a musical story. Ask them to close their eyes as they listen and try to imagine the story in their mind. Explain that different people will likely hear different stories and that's okay! Play a short piece (or excerpt) of instrumental music for your students. Then invite them to share what story they imagined while listening. Extend this activity by having students write and/or illustrate their stories.

Standard T.CR.5 for grades K-6: Create character through physical movement, gesture, sound, and/or speech and facial expression based on stories or improvisation Introduce the characters of Peter and the Wolf one at a time. You can use the following website to play each character's theme: <http://www.philtulga.com/Peter.html> Ask your students to imagine what that character might look like and how they would move. Then play the themes again, having the students walk around the room as each character.

Standard T.P.3 for grades K-6 Observe, listen, and respond in character to other actors Ask for ideas of how characters might interact. For example: What might happen if the cat sees the bird? (The cat might try to catch the bird) What's something that the grandfather might say to Peter (his grandson)? (The grandfather might tell Peter rules he has to follow/might tell him a story etc) Assign each student a character and have them work in pairs or small groups to act out what might happen if those characters saw each other. If appropriate, invite groups to perform their scenarios for each other.

Free Online Resources

- Video of a Vancouver Symphony Orchestra performance (Run time 29:30)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfM7Y9Pcdzw>
- Audio recording by the New York Stadium Symphony Orchestra (MUSIC ONLY; NO NARRATION)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fmi5zHg4QSM>
- Lesson plans for grades 2-7 from The Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County:
https://www.musiccenter.org/globalassets/globalpac/education/research-and-evaluation/pandw_instituteeducators2012.pdf