

England: Kate and Her Orchestra

I Love Music Series

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World Geography and Cultures, Multicultural Studies, Music

Synopsis: Although she is only ten years old, Kate has far-reaching ambitions. She is not yet sure whether she wants to be a musician, a conductor or a composer, but for the moment, she is quite content learning to play the flute, the clarinet and the xylophone with her teacher, Mr. Timms.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to compare and contrast their culture, family, and activities to Kate's culture, family, and activities.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of cultures on our planet.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to locate England on a map or globe.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to define elements of an orchestra.

Vocabulary:

England, responsibilities, composer, orchestra, clarinet, conduct, scales, rehearsal, Walkman, musicians, "having one's head in the clouds," theme, musical arrangement, version, master, mandolin, opinion, cymbal, white cane, keen, obstacles, impressed, tune, tempo, ordinary, flute, soprano, alto, xylophone

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Locate England on a map or globe. Ask students on which continent England is located. Point out London, the English Channel, the North Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean on the map. Make sure viewers know where England is in relation to the rest of the world, including the United States and North America.
- 2) Discuss general characteristics of England such as climate, geographical features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) Ask the students to identify some of their favorite activities. Next, ask them what they want to be when they grow up. Have the students compare their current activities with their career choices.

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe Kate's town. Compare and contrast England with your town. How are they similar or different? Describe Kate's home. What is her room like? How is it similar or different from your own room? Is your room bigger or smaller?

- 2) Kate is very excited about an upcoming activity involving her orchestra. What is it? What is Kate's job? How does she feel about being in charge? Describe some of Kate's jobs. Imagine that you were Kate. How would you feel? What does Kate want to be when she grows up? How will her work with the orchestra help her in the future?
- 3) Compare and contrast Kate's activities with your own. How are they similar or different? Do you have to practice or take lessons for any activities in which you are involved? What kind of activities do you practice? How do you practice? How does Kate practice?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Invite the conductor or your school's band to visit the class. Have each student decide on a question to ask the conductor. Share the video with him. Students could ask him how he became interested in music, how does he perform his job, does he get nervous before a performance, etc.
- 2) Ask the students to prepare a geographic profile of England noting its size, location, climate, natural resources, and outstanding cultural traits. Have them describe England's history, principal industries, people, and major tourist attractions.
- 3) Ask students to investigate England's musical history. Have them discover musical traditions, famous conductors and famous composers.

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