



STORIES FROM THE SEA

EXPLORATION ONLINE ACTIVITY 2



SONGS OF EXPLORATION

Exploring genres of song

Writing song lyrics

Similes, metaphors and assonance

Introduction

Children write a song to keep them and their team members amused on a long and dangerous expedition. The object inspiration is the banjo taken on Shackleton's expedition, which was so valuable to the team that it survived all the dangers and was brought back to England.

Explain that songs serve a variety of purposes: marching or working songs, soothing songs, protest songs, rousing songs to keep people's spirits up in tough times, folk songs or raps as oral traditions to tell a story or keep a history alive.

Many songs are associated with journeys across the sea <http://www.efdss.org/> .

Immersion

Choose a genre of song for children to focus on; or ask them to listen to a number of genres and decide which might be suitable for keeping the crew entertained on a long sea voyage of exploration.

They can look at the different type of language used in songs: assonance, metaphors, similes.

They could look at poems and think about how they could be sung.

Which instruments might accompany the songs?

Which ones would not be so good to take on an expedition?

Plan and draft

Children practise writing lines for songs. They could focus on using assonance, simile and/or metaphor.

They complete the songs and share them with each other.

Write up and publish

Children write the final version of their song.

The collection could be published as an anthology, performed as a concert, recorded and put on the school's website.



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