EdRugby Online Educational Resource

LESSON: Writing an anthem

THEME: Australian pride



DESCRIPTION:

Students revise the purpose and form of a national anthem. They explore their own values and qualities and develop a national anthem that promotes them.

An ideal preparation for this lesson is the *Advance Australia Fair* lesson.

OUTCOMES

This lesson contributes to the achievement of the following unit outcomes:

English

- With teacher guidance, identifies and discusses how linguistic structures and features work to shape readers' and viewers' understanding of texts.
- Identifies and discusses some of the relationships between ideas, information and events in visual texts designed for general viewing.
- Justifies own interpretation of ideas, information and events in texts containing some unfamiliar concepts and topics and which introduce relatively complex linguistic structures and features.
- Uses writing to develop familiar ideas, events and information.
- Adjusts writing to take account of aspects of context, purpose and audience.

SUGGESTED TIME:

2 X 40 minutes

WHAT YOU NEED:

- recording of the Australian national anthem (on tape, compact disc, video, other). Try to obtain a range of anthems played at different events and in different ways.
- class copies of the student handouts (at the end of this lesson plan)



PART 1 INTRODUCTION

- a. Play the recording of the Australian national anthem, 'Advance Australia Fair' to the class. An ideal recording to show is the anthem as performed at a major sporting event.
- b. Brainstorm with the class to find out more about the purpose of anthems. Does it still sum up how we feel about ourselves?

Why do we have an anthem?

What is its purpose?

Where do you hear the anthem?

What do the words mean to you?

How does it make you feel?

What are some phrases used?

Does the anthem sum up how we see ourselves?

What are the players doing whilst the anthem is being sung?

Comment on the facial expressions of the players.

Discuss the ideas around the qualities and values that are evoked in an anthem.

c. Explain that sometimes anthems are modified to keep up to date and relevant with cultural and social shifts and the values held by a country. Advance Australia Fair was composed in the late 1800s by Peter Dodds McCormick. It has since been modified to keep it up to date. For example:

The line 'Australians all let us rejoice' was changed from 'Australian sons let us rejoice'. Ask a few prompt questions such as:

Why do you think this change was made?

Does it change the meaning? How?

Wouldn't it be too much trouble to change the words?

- d. Explain that Australia used to use 'God Save the Queen' as its national anthem (along with England!). Distribute copies of the student handout -God Save the Queen. Work with the class to find out if the values in 'God Save the Queen' are the same as or different from those promoted in 'Advance Australia Fair'.
- e. Explain that a song suggested as a national anthem in 1977 was 'Walzing Matilda'. Distribute copies of the student handout – Walzing Matilda. Work with the class to find out if the values in 'Walzing Matilda' are the same as or different from those promoted in 'Advance Australia Fair'.

Alternatively, find the lyrics to an anthem from another country such as New Zealand.

- f. Brainstorm with the class to find out more about the values they themselves hold. These may include:
- camaraderie
- teamwork
- freedom
- heritage
- fair go for all
- Australian pride.
- g. Allow time for individual work or organise small groups of students. Ask students to make a list of the values and ideals they want to feature and promote in their anthem.

PART 2 DEVELOPING AN ANTHEM

- a. Ask students to explore the three songs. Work with the class and discuss the words used, phrasing, sentence structure, rhyming patterns and other features.
- b. Ask the class some questions about composing a new national anthem:

If you were going to compose a new anthem, what would you include in it?

What is missing from the current one?

What gives a national anthem relevance?

This was written many years ago. How would you update it?

What phrases are no longer current?

Is the rhyme pattern consistent?

Is the sentiment consistent?

Are the words more important than the music?

Is an anthem the same as a song?

How is music important to indigenous people?

c. Give students individual time to begin jotting down some ideas and start writing their new anthem.

PART 3 REFLECTION

Discuss the relevance of the Australian and other national anthems in contemporary society.

Have anthems gained a greater significance in recent times?

Reflect on some emotions and feelings evoked by anthems. Discuss the purpose of anthems and some of the values promoted by them.

PART 4 EXTENSION

- Explore the themes and issues surrounding patriotism.
- Organise for students to make a presentation of their new anthem to the class.
- Find the lyrics to the New Zealand anthem. Discuss the similarities and differences to Australia's national anthem.
- How do these two anthems compare with other forms of expression? Find out more about the New Zealand Haka. What links does it have to the New Zealand culture?
- Distribute the lyrics to the Rugby version of 'Come all ye faithful'. Discuss the form of this song, its purpose, where it might be sung, the choice of words and melody and meaning.
- Use the Internet to search for the lyrics of national anthems of teams that competed in the Rugby World Cup 2007. Explain the meaning behind the lyrics, and the history of how the music and words were developed. How are they depicting their countries?
- What role does the music play in a national anthem? Find recordings of the Russian, French and Austrian national anthems and listen to the music. What emotions are evoked? How does each anthem make you feel?
- Canada and Australia used to have the same national anthem as England, 'God Save the Queen'. Canada now has a new national anthem and a new flag. How important is a national flag to a nation's identity?
- Is patriotism always a good thing? Research some of the positives and negatives of national pride.
- Ask students to look through magazines and other references to find anthems and themes for sporting events and tournaments around the world.
- Students can organise a debate on whether the national anthem needs to be updated.
- Find out if any students play a musical instrument. Organise a presentation and have them play the music of a national anthem.
- Discuss the features, purpose and audience of a range of anthems.
- Explore the language used in a range of anthems, noting their origins. Compare to anthems from other countries. Try to find anthems that have been updated and find out why this happened.

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

Australians all let us rejoice, For we are young and free; We've golden soil and wealth for toil, Our home is girt by sea; Our land abounds in Nature's gifts Of beauty rich and rare; In history's page, let every stage Advance Australia fair! In joyful strains then let us sing, 'Advance Australia fair!'

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross, We'll toil with hearts and hands; To make this Commonwealth of ours Renowned of all the lands: For those who've come across the seas We've boundless plains to share; With courage let us all combine To advance Australia fair. In joyful strains then let us sing 'Advance Australia fair!'

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

God save our gracious Queen Long live our noble Queen, God save the Queen!

Send her victorious, Happy and glorious, Long to reign over us: God save the Queen!

O Lord our God arise, Strike down her enemies, And make them fall! Confound their politics, Frustrate their knavish tricks, On thee our hopes we fix: God save us all!

Not in this land alone,
But be God's mercies known,
From shore to shore!
Lord make the nations see,
That men should brothers be,
And form one family,
The wide world o'er
From every latent foe,
From the assassin's blow,
God save the Queen!

O'er her thine arm extend, For Britain's sake defend, Our mother, prince, and friend, God save the Queen!

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour;
Long may she reign;
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice
'God save the Queen!'

WALTZING MATILDA

Once a jolly swagman Camped by a billabong Under the shade of a Coolabah Tree And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me.

Waltzing Matilda Waltzing Matilda You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me. And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me.

Down came a jumbuck
To drink at that billabong.
Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with glee
And he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his tucker box
You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me.

Waltzing Matilda Waltzing Matilda You come a waltzing Matilda with me. And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me.

Down came a squatter

Mounted on his thoroughbred

Down came the troopers 1-2-3

Who's that jolly jumbuck you got in your tucker box

You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me.

Waltzing Matilda Waltzing Matilda You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me. And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me.

Up jumped the swagman Sprang into the billabong "You'll never catch me alive!!!" said he And his ghost may be heard as you pass by the Billabong You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me.

Waltzing Matilda Waltzing Matilda You come a waltzing Matilda with me. And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me.

RUGBY COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Oh come all ye faithful You'll see them triumphant Oh come oh ye rugby fans To stadium Australia

Come and behold them Thank God they're Australian

Oh come let us adore them Oh come let us adore them Oh come let us adore them Wal-la-bie

IRELAND'S CALL

Come the day and come the hour Come the power and the glory We have come to answer Our Country's call From the four proud provinces of Ireland

Chorus

Ireland, Ireland, Together standing tall Shoulder to shoulder We'll answer Ireland's call

From the mighty Glens of Antrim
From the rugged hills of Galway
From the walls of Limerick
And Dublin Bay
From the four proud provinces of Ireland
(Chorus)

Hearts of steel
And heads unbowing
Vowing never to be broken
We will fight, until
We can fight no more
For the four proud provinces of Ireland
(Chorus)

*Parts of the song not usually sung are in *italics*.

Note: *Irelands Call* was a song commissioned by the Irish Rugby Board, to be used as an anthem for the Irish Rugby Union Team (a team representing two countries - the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland). *Ireland's Call* became Ireland's official rugby anthem in 1995, and is now used by a number of other sports which are made up of representatives from the two countries.

Ireland's Call was written to bring together every corner of Ireland. Discuss the importance of this anthem to the teams.

You may like to find video footage of players from the two countries standing 'shoulder to shoulder' as they sing the anthem with pride.