MEC

COOL CLIPS

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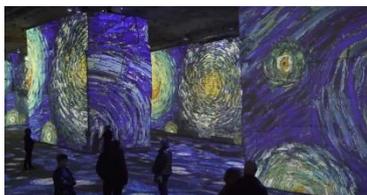
STARRY NIGHT
Teacher's Guide

A lovely magical presentation of many works of Vincent Van Gogh in a Paris museum with music by Don McLean.

Vincent van Gogh art ALIVE -
Atelier des Lumières (Paris, France) STARRY NIGHT
video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbgrHnbgoDU
song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wrNFDxCRzU
Vocabulary: lots of advanced vocabulary on the song worksheet

Teaching English

TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

NOTE: *The video starts the song at the third verse but the complete song is in the handout.*
●1-Ask the students what they know about Van Gogh (you can google him beforehand to make sure you have something to say yourself, if needed).

●2- Give out the student handout and go through the song line by line. Elicit (or provide) the meaning (and possibly the pronunciation) of the individual words and the line. To save some time you could go through each verse, having the students ask you questions pertaining to it. If you do it this way, try to get other students to offer explanations before giving yours (if it is still necessary).

●3- Have the students speak briefly in pairs about the images that come to mind as they go through each verse again.

●4- Play the video and have the students fill in the blanks. Remember that the video starts on the third verse.

Vincent
By Don McLean

Starry, starry night
Paint your palette blue and grey
Look out on a summer's day
With eyes that know the darkness in my soul
Shadows on the hills
Sketch the trees and the daffodils
Catch the breeze and the winter chills
In colors on the snowy linen land

Now I understand
What you tried to say to me
And how you suffered for your sanity
And how you tried to set them free
They would not listen, they did not know how
Perhaps they'll listen now
- -
(video starts at this point)

Starry, starry night
Flaming flowers that brightly blaze
Swirling clouds in violet haze
Reflect in Vincent's eyes of china blue
Colors changing hue
Morning fields of amber grain
Weathered ***faces lined in pain***
Are soothed beneath the artist's loving hand

Now I understand
What you tried to say to me
And how you suffered for your sanity
And how you tried to set them free
They would not listen, they did not know how
Perhaps they'll listen now

For they could not love you
But still your love was true
And when ***no hope was left in sight***
On that starry, starry night
You took your life, ***as lovers often do***
But I could have told you, Vincent
This world was never meant for one
As beautiful as you

Starry, starry night
Portraits ***hung in empty halls***
Frameless heads on nameless walls
With eyes that watch the world and can't forget
Like the strangers that you've met
The ragged men ***in ragged clothes***
The silver thorn, a bloody rose
Lie crushed and broken on the virgin snow

Now I think I know
What you tried to say to me
And how you suffered for your sanity
And how you tried to set them free
They would not listen, they're not listening still
Perhaps ***they never will***

DISCUSSION THEMES:

●What do you know of Vincent Van Gogh? How do you imagine him? His life?

●Would you go to this museum if you go to Paris? Have you seen any exciting exhibitions or shows before (like special multi-media exhibitions, ballet in the park, etc? What did you witness and how did you feel about them?

●Do you think most of the greatest artists have had troubled souls? Do you think that helps them create their art?

●What does 'art' mean to you? Is there much difference between the art of an average person and that of one who breaks new ground or achieves high levels?

● Do you think the arts has a great impact on humanity and our civilization? Would it be comparable to technology or religion or the idea of government?

●What do you consider **not** art? Can art be evaluated? Can it be learned or taught?

►►► Atelier des Lumières https://www.atelier-lumieres.com/fr/monet-renoir-chagall-voyages-en-mediterranee

►►► Don McLean performs American Pie live at BBC   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RciM7P9K3FA