

Performing Arts
Home Learning Project
Les Miserables

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LESSON 1

Task 1

Listen to 'The Work Song' (prologue) from the musical Les Misérables, whilst following along with the lyrics

Task

Listen to the song again and fill in the music sheet

Analysing



Task 2

Highlight the words that stand out to you on the lyrics.
Listen to the song again and fill in the music sheet

Task 4

Watch some You Tube versions of the song on stage—what are themes of the song?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yv3fWRZuT90>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRT2M2RRDTk>

SPOTIFY—Search - 'Prologue/look Down—Live' (Les Misérables 2010 company)

Look down, look down
Don't look 'em in the eye
Look down, look down
You're here until you die

1ST CONVICT
The sun is strong
Its hot as hell below
Look down, look down
There's twenty years to go

2ND CONVICT
I've done no wrong
Sweet Jesus, here my prayer
Look down, look down
Sweet Jesus doesn't care

3RD CONVICT
I know she'll wait
I know that she'll be true
Look down, look down
They've all forgotten you

4TH CONVICT
When I get free
You won't see me
'Ere for dust
Look down, look down
Don't look 'em in the eye.

5TH CONVICT
How long, O Lord
Before you let me die?
Look down, look down
You'll always be a slave
Look down, look down
You're standing in your grave.
there's twenty years to go.

THE WORK SONG— Prologue/Look Down

Watch the clip of the song 'Look Down' from *Les Miserables*. Think about the different elements of music and how they are used in this song. Make an observation about each using the sub-headings.

Analysing



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpNPCpRT9WU>

Tempo -

Texture -

Timbre -

Duration -

Dynamics -

Pitch -

Structure -

RESEARCH

LESSON 2

1. What is a prologue?
2. What is a chain-gang?
3. Who wrote the book that the musical Les Misérables is based on?
4. Who wrote the music and lyrics for the musical?
5. Why is the main character—Jean Valjean—in prison?
6. How long is he in prison for?
7. What is a convict?
8. Which country is Les Misérables set in?

Complete all this work on paper (and photograph your work as evidence) or electronically.

Make sure your name and form is on your work

Questions about the song

Linking

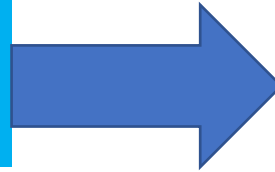


Analysing



1. At the very beginning of the extract, the keyboard and violins play a repeated pattern - what is a repeated pattern called in music?
2. Also in the prologue, two brass instruments are heard, what are they?
3. Other than the drum, what percussion instrument is heard during the song?
4. Throughout this song there is an ostinato (a repeated musical pattern). Why do you think this repetition is used in the song?

Write your own lyrics for the song



LESSON 3

Look down, look down

Look down, look down

Imagine you were convict in the same situation as Valjean. How do you think you would be feeling if you were in this work-gang? Try to write your own lyrics for 3 verses of the song—see if you can make the ends of the lines rhyme.

Try to stick to the metre of the song
4 syllables for lines 1 and 3
6 syllables for lines 2 and 4

Creating



**YOU MUST COMPLETE ONE CREATIVE TASK FROM THE BLUE PAGE
AND ONE FROM THE RED PAGE = 2 creative tasks in total**

LESSON 4

Creative choice A

You are a convict on the chain gang who stole a loaf of bread to feed your starving family.

Write a letter (as a monologue) to your family.

Make sure you mention:

- .The conditions you are living in
- .Your family
- .Why you did what you did

Creative choice B

Design a costume for your character—a convict on the chain gang who has stolen a loaf of bread to feed the family.

Draw, colour and label the costume.

Explain (JUSTIFY) your choices

Creating



Creative choice C

Design the make-up and hair for your character (a convict on the chain gang who has stolen a loaf of bread to feed the family).

Draw, colour and label the hair and make-up

Explain (JUSTIFY) your choices

Creative choice D

Design the make-up and hair for your character (a convict on the chain gang who has stolen a loaf of bread to feed the family). Draw, colour and label the hair and make-up

Explain (JUSTIFY) your choices

LESSON 5

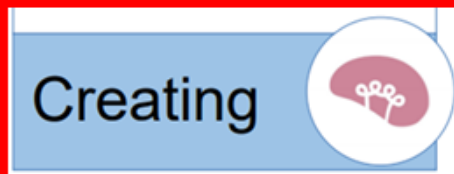
Creative choice E

Listen to some more songs from the Les Misérables musical and select one to sing—learn, rehearse and video yourself singing a section of the song. You can find accompaniments online.

Creative choice F

Play a song from the show on an instrument of your choice, or if you don't have access to an instrument you can use a virtual one:

<https://www.virtualmusicalinstruments.com/>



Creative choice G

Create a powerpoint presentation about the life and music of the composer of Les Miserables : Claude-Michel Schönberg.