The Most Southern Place on Earth Lesson Plan

July 2016

NiYa Costley

Grade Level: High School

Subject: ELA

Essential Question

Time Needed: 2-3 class periods

Objective: SWBAT compare and contrast lyrics based on poetry analysis

What is the blues?

<http://www.pbs.org/theblues/classroom/essaysblues.html>

Common Core State Standards

* [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.6](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/11-12/6/)  
  Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement).

* [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.4](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/11-12/4/)  
  Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (Include Shakespeare as well as other authors.)

* [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.5](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/11-12/5/)  
  Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

* [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.3](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/11-12/3/)  
  Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).

* [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.1](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/11-12/1/)  
  Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

Warmup

Student quickwrite: What is a cross road?

Lesson

* Review what crossroads mean to the students?
* Complete the think pair share about Robert Johnson. Copy the last two pages of this document back to back)
  + Each student is responsible for writing 3 notices and one wonder in reference to the song. p.1. This should not take more than 5 minutes. Have students transfer their most intriguing wonder to the back of the paper.
  + Students will switch papers with another student who will respond with their own responses to the song. Response cannot be the same wonder that the classmate has written in the first box. (no more than 2 minutes) Repeat this twice.
  + The last switch should return the paper to its original owner. After reading the responses shared by classmates fill out the wonder box.
* Discuss the legend of Robert Johnson and the role he played in the music scene of the Delta.
  + <http://www.visitthedelta.com/explore_our_region/trip_ideas/robert_johnson.aspx>
  + Complete the SOAPS graphic organizer.
* Day 2
  + Students will independently complete the graphic organizer choosing any two of the selected crossroads songs.
    - Review TPCASTT
      * Title what do you think the two songs will be about?
      * Paraphrase In your own words tell the story of the two songs?
      * Connotation Literal meanings vs figurative meanings are there words you don’t know?
      * Attitude what is the tone of the song? What emotions are present?
      * Shift Is there a shift at any point in the lyrics( in mood , in perspective, in emotion)
      * Title Revisit the title has your perspective changes on its meaning
      * Theme In no more than 5 words what is the song about

Materials

Resources

* Audio files for songs where possible.
* Crossroads
  + Robert Johnson
    - Crossroads Blues Robert Johnson <https://youtu.be/GsB_cGdgPTo>
  + I Prevail
    - <https://youtu.be/pi8ttSZbkyc>
  + Marty Robbins
    - <https://youtu.be/qkg5Y9rmRck>
  + Tracy Chapman
    - <https://youtu.be/4SCysf13l2Y>
  + Bone Thugs N Harmony
    - <https://youtu.be/VMYAEHE2GrM>
      * Violent video may not be appropriate. Preview before showing to students
      * Crossroads Bone Thugs N Harmony <https://youtu.be/y-JmZ9ADhYg>

Culminating activity: Assign as homework. Have students present if time allows. (There are multiple copies on the handout to conserve paper. Provide each student with a copy of the culminating activity.)

“Everybody has that point in their life where you hit a crossroads and you've had a bunch of bad days and there's different ways you can deal with it and the way I dealt with it was I just turned completely to music.” Taylor Swift

What is the soundtrack of your life? Create one of the following:

* **A cd jacket with your soundtrack.**
  + Choose at least 10 songs from at least four different genres (ex. blues, rap, gospel, oldies, R&B, or….) Explain in a 2-3 sentences why you chose each song.
* **A journal reflection on crossroads**
  + (Must be at least 3 paragraphs)
* **A song, rap, poem or other creative expression**
  + What are crossroads to you? How, why are they significant? There must be at least 3 stanzas

“Everybody has that point in their life where you hit a crossroads and you've had a bunch of bad days and there's different ways you can deal with it and the way I dealt with it was I just turned completely to music.” Taylor Swift

What is the soundtrack of your life? Create one of the following:

* **A cd jacket with your soundtrack.**
  + Choose at least 10 songs from at least four different genres (ex. blues, rap, gospel, oldies, R&B, or….) Explain in a 2-3 sentences why you chose each song.
* **A journal reflection on crossroads**
  + (Must be at least 3 paragraphs)
* **A song, rap, poem or other creative expression**
  + What are crossroads to you? How, why are they significant? There must be at least 3 stanzas

“Everybody has that point in their life where you hit a crossroads and you've had a bunch of bad days and there's different ways you can deal with it and the way I dealt with it was I just turned completely to music.” Taylor Swift

What is the soundtrack of your life? Create one of the following:

* **A cd jacket with your soundtrack.**
  + Choose at least 10 songs from at least four different genres (ex. blues, rap, gospel, oldies, R&B, or….) Explain in a 2-3 sentences why you chose each song.
* **A journal reflection on crossroads**
  + (Must be at least 3 paragraphs)
* **A song, rap, poem or other creative expression**
  + What are crossroads to you? How, why are they significant? There must be at least 3 stanzas

Crossroad Blues

Robert Johnson

I went to the crossroad, fell down on my knees  
I went to the crossroad, fell down on my knees  
Asked the Lord above, "Have mercy, now save poor Bob, if you please"  
  
Yeo, standin' at the crossroad, tried to flag a ride  
Ooo, eee, I tried to flag a ride  
Didn't nobody seem to know me, babe, everybody pass me by  
  
Standin' at the crossroad, baby, risin' sun goin' down  
Standin' at the crossroad, baby, eee, eee, risin' sun goin' down  
I believe to my soul, now, poor Bob is sinkin' down

You can run, you can run, tell my friend, Willie Brown  
You can run, you can run, tell my friend, Willie Brown  
That I got the crossroad blues this mornin', Lord, babe, I'm sinkin' down  
  
And I went to the crossroad, mama, I looked east and west  
I went to the crossroad, baby, I looked east and west  
Lord, I didn't have no sweet woman, ooh well, babe, in my distress

Crossroads Bone Thugs N Harmony

Bone, Bone, Bone, Bone  
Bone, Bone, Bone, Bone, Bone  
Now tell me whatcha gonna do  
When there ain't no where to run?  
(Tell me what)

(When judgment comes for you)  
(When judgment comes for you)  
And whatcha gonna do  
When there ain't no where to hide?  
(Tell me what)  
When judgment comes for you  
('Cause it's gonna come for you)

Let's all bring it in for Wally, Eazy sees uncle Charlie  
Little Boo, God's got him and I'm gonna miss everybody  
I only roll with Bone my gang look to where they lay  
When playing with destiny, plays too deep for me to say  
Lil' Layzie came to me, told me if he should decease well then please  
Bury me by my grand, grand and when you can, come follow me

God bless you working on a plan to Heaven  
Follow the Lord all 24/7 days, God is who we praise  
Even though the devil's all up in my face  
But he keeping me safe and in my place, say grace

For the case to race with a chance to face the judge  
And I'm guessing my soul won't budge  
Grudge because there's no mercy for thugs  
Oh, what can I do it's all about our family and how we roll  
Can I get a witness let it unfold?  
We living our lives to eternal our soul, aye-oh-aye-oh

Pray and we pray, and we pray, and we pray, and we pray  
Every day, everyday, everyday, everyday  
And we pray, and we pray, and we pray, and we pray  
Still we laced, now follow me roll stroll

Whether is tell of his Heaven  
Come let's go take a visit of people that's long gone  
Darris, Wally, Eazy, Terry, Boo  
It's steadily creeping up on the family  
Exactly how many days we got lasting

While you laughin' we're passing, passing away  
So y'all go rest y'all souls  
'Cause I know I'ma meet you up at the crossroads  
Y'all know, y'all forever got love from them Bone Thugs baby

Now Eazy's long gone  
Really wish he would come home  
But when it's time to die  
Gotta go, bye, bye  
All a thug could do is cry, cry  
Why they kill my dog and man?

I miss my uncle Charles y'all  
And he shouldn't be gone in front of his home  
What they did to Boo was wrong  
Oh, so wrong, oh, so wrong  
Gotta hold on, gotta stay strong, when the day comes  
Better believe Bone got a shoulder you can lean on  
(Lean on)

Hey, and we pray, and we pray, and we pray, and we pray  
Everyday, everyday, everyday, everyday  
And we pray, and we pray, and we pray, and we pray  
Everyday, everyday, everyday, everyday

See you at the crossroads, crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads

And I'm gonna miss everybody  
And I'm gonna miss everybody when I'm gone  
And I'm gonna miss everybody  
And I'm gonna miss everybody  
And I'm gonna miss everybody

Living in a hateful world  
Sending me straight to heaven  
That's how we roll  
Living in a hateful world  
Sending me straight to heaven  
That's how we roll

Living in a hateful world  
Sending me straight to heaven  
That's how we roll  
And I'm asking the good Lord with a sigh  
It's I he told me we live to die

What's up with murder y'all? See my little cousin was hung  
Somebody was really wrong, everybody want to test us dawg  
Then Miss Sleazy set up Eazy to fall, you know why we sinnin'  
And Krayzie intended on ending it when it ends  
Wanna come again, again and again, now tell me whatcha gonna do?

Can somebody, anybody tell me why?  
Hey, can somebody anybody tell me  
Why we die, we die? I don't wanna die

Ohh, so wrong, ohh, wrong  
Ohh, so wrong, ohh, wrong

See you at the crossroads, crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads

See you at the crossroads, crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads

See you at the crossroads, crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads  
So you won't be lonely  
See you at the crossroads, crossroads  
...

"Crossroads"  
Tracy Chapman

All you folks think you own my life  
But you never made any sacrifice  
Demons they are on my trail  
I'm standing at the crossroads of the hell  
I look to the left I look to the right  
There're hands that grab me on every side  
  
All you folks think I got my price  
At which I'll sell all that is mine  
You think money rules when all else fails  
Go sell your soul and keep your shell  
I'm trying to protect what I keep inside  
All the reasons why I live my life  
  
Some say the devil be a mystical thing  
I say the devil he a walking man  
He a fool he a liar conjurer and a thief  
He try to tell you what you want  
Try to tell you what you need  
  
Standing at the point  
The road it cross you down  
What is at your back  
Which way do you turn  
Who will come to find you first  
Your devils or your gods  
  
All you folks think you run my life  
Say I should be willing to compromise  
I say all you demons go back to hell  
I'll save my soul save myself

At Crossroads Of Life  
written and recorded by Marty Robbins  
  
Here I am all alone at the crossroads  
And I watch as you disappear from sight  
Leaving me so alone and unwanted  
All alone at the crossroads of life  
The highways we traveled together   
Have vanished like a whisper in the night  
Shall I turn right or left or go straight forward  
You can’t turn back at the crossroads of life  
Maybe someday you’ll be at the crossroads  
And you’ll curse every minute of the night  
Cause there’s no hell on earth like you’ll be living  
When you’re alone at the crossroads of life  
  
Repeat #2  
  
You can’t turn back at the crossroads of life

## Crossroads

By I Prevail

Just hear me out, I know you're down  
When hope looks lost, there's no one to be found  
But I won't give up on you (I won't give up on you)  
You gotta dig deep, and bury all the thoughts  
The thoughts that tell you, you're not good enough  
The critics, the cynics, say you'll never make it  
Prove em' all wrong, they are mistaken

Though you may walk alone, you're worth more than you know (More than you know)

Look me right in the eyes, I promise everything will be alright  
We are all in this fight, (Though the night may be dark a new day brings new light)  
Woah-oh-oh-oh-oh, woah-oh-oh-oh-oh, woah-oh, woah-oh, woah-oh-oh-oh  
Woah-oh-oh-oh-oh, woah-oh-oh-oh-oh, woah-oh, woah-oh, woah-oh-oh-oh

I always get built up, but broke right back down  
I ask the questions, with no answers to be found  
What have I done? What did I say? I guess this is just the price I pay

Though you may walk alone, you're worth more than you know

Look me right in the eyes, I promise everything will be alright  
We are all in this fight, (Though the night may be dark a new day brings new light)  
Remember all the times, all the times you felt so alive  
When all the pain subsides, (Lets go back there, take me back there)

Hold on, 'cause you don't know what is going to happen  
Stay strong, your life's worth more than you know

When your mind gets tired, and your heart grows cold  
When you find yourself at the crossroads, just don't let go  
When your mind gets tired, and your heart grows cold  
When you find yourself at the crossroads, just don't lose hope

Look me right in the eyes, I promise everything will be alright  
We are all in this fight, (Though the night may be dark a new day brings new light)  
Remember all the times, all the times you felt so alive  
When all the pain subsides, (Lets go back there, take me back there)

Hold on, 'cause you don't know what is going to happen  
Stay strong, your life's worth more than you know

Crossroads Graphic Organizer

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Title** what do you think this is about |  |
|  | **Paraphrase** In your own words what is the story of the song/song? Are there words you don’t know? |  |
|  | **Connotations** Are there words with multiple meanings or figurative meanings vs literal meanings |  |
|  | **Attitude** What is the tone? What are the emotions? What kind of attitude does the speaker take in reference to the subject? |  |
|  | **Shift** Is there a shift in the text? What kind of shift is it? Does it change the direction and meaning of the song? |  |
|  | **Title** Are there new insights about the title now that you have read the lyrics. |  |
|  | **Theme** What greater message was meant to be conveyed? What was the authors purpose for writing the lyrics |  |
| What is similar about both songs? | | |

Robert Johnson Crossroads Blues Graphic Organizer

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** the general topic |  |
| **Occasion** the time and place of the song |  |
| **Audience** to whom is the song written |  |
| **Purpose** what is the reason behind the writing of the song |  |
| **Speaker** what can you say about the voice speaking the song |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What I noticed about the Song?  Crossroads Blues  Robert Johnson | (Classmate 1) What I noticed about the Song |
| A question I still have about the song | (Classmate 2) What I noticed about the Song |

Crossroads by Robert Johnson Round Robin activity

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Three things I noticed about the song | One thing I still wonder about the song |
|  |  |

Crossroad Blues

Robert Johnson

I went to the crossroad, fell down on my knees  
I went to the crossroad, fell down on my knees  
Asked the Lord above, "Have mercy, now save poor Bob, if you please"  
  
Yeo, standin' at the crossroad, tried to flag a ride  
Ooo, eee, I tried to flag a ride  
Didn't nobody seem to know me, babe, everybody pass me by  
  
Standin' at the crossroad, baby, risin' sun goin' down  
Standin' at the crossroad, baby, eee, eee, risin' sun goin' down  
I believe to my soul, now, poor Bob is sinkin' down

You can run, you can run, tell my friend, Willie Brown  
You can run, you can run, tell my friend, Willie Brown  
That I got the crossroad blues this mornin', Lord, babe, I'm sinkin' down  
  
And I went to the crossroad, mama, I looked east and west  
I went to the crossroad, baby, I looked east and west  
Lord, I didn't have no sweet woman, ooh well, babe, in my distress