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Date: _____

ELA Grade 7 Unit 4 - Print

1

America's Music: Jazz

by Andrew Matthews

Above all other styles of music, jazz is considered a truly American art. It grew out of several musical forms—gospel hymns, blues, and ragtime—that are rooted in the history of blacks in America. Yet, even though its origins can be traced to music that had existed for centuries before it, jazz introduced a whole new sound.

New Orleans was the most musical city in the United States in the early 1900s. It boasted opera houses, concert halls, ballrooms, street parades, and street bands. It was also home to a diverse range of cultures, including black, Creole, French, Spanish, and Native American people. From the blending of all those sounds and cultures, jazz emerged.

In the mid-1910s, African Americans began to leave the South in great waves in search of a better life. They relocated mostly to cities in the North, and they brought jazz with them. Chicago, Kansas City, and New York became the places where white audiences were introduced to the expressive new sound. Jazz began to flourish. In fact, the next decade became known as the Jazz Age.

The Roaring 20s was a time of great prosperity in the United States. People had more money to spend and wanted to be entertained. Americans frequented clubs and dance halls where jazz was being played. It was also the decade in which radio and records became popular. These events made it easier to listen to jazz, because eager audiences no longer had to wait for a traveling band to come to their city and perform live. Jazz became a subject over which black and white people began to find common ground.

So what is jazz? It is highly personalized and focuses on individual interpretation and rhythm. Some of the most famous jazz arrangements have no words. They rely solely on the instruments (often piano, trumpet or saxophone) to do the “singing.” The jazz musician has the freedom to vary the beat, the rhythm, and the volume. This flexibility allows the performer to compose, experiment, and reshape the music according to his or her feelings. And the freedom to alter and experiment while performing—known as improvisation—is an important element of jazz that truly sets it apart from traditional music styles.

Number each event based on when it occurred in “America’s Music: Jazz.” Use the list of historical events below.

- ☐ Jazz emerged in New Orleans from a blending of sounds and cultures.
- ☐ White audiences in Chicago, Kansas City, and New York were introduced to the revolutionary sounds of jazz.
- ☐ Jazz gained popularity as consumers began to spend more money on records and live entertainment.

- ☐ African Americans began to leave the South and settle in the North, where they hoped to find better opportunities.

2

Based on “America’s Music: Jazz,” the cultural origins of jazz can be traced to

- A) the Southern United States, where many religious traditions valued musical experimentation.
- B) New York, where black and white Americans bonded over music and shared urban experiences.
- C) small towns across the United States, where traveling bands introduced new music from faraway cities.
- D) New Orleans, where the musical traditions of many ethnic groups blended together to create new sounds.

3

Which sentence from “America’s Music: Jazz” **best** supports the idea that jazz emerged from a variety of influences?

- A) Yet, even though its origins can be traced to music that had existed for centuries before it, jazz introduced a whole new sound.

7/16/2021
B) It was also home to a diverse range of cultures, including black, Creole, French, Spanish, and Native American people.

C) Chicago, Kansas City, and New York became the places where white audiences were introduced to the expressive new sound.

D) These events made it easier to listen to jazz, because eager audiences no longer had to wait for a traveling band to come to their city and perform live.

4

Read the sentences from “America’s Music: Jazz.”

Jazz began to flourish. In fact, the next decade became known as the Jazz Age.

What is the meaning of the word “flourish” in these sentences?

- A) cause disorder
- B) gain popularity
- C) go away
- D) transform its style

5

City Jazz

by Dorina Lazo Gilmore

When Miles strolls through the city
he feels jazz music.

Stoplights breathe
green, yellow . . . slow red
green, yellow . . . slow red

Syncopated rhythm
constant like the drumbeat
green, yellow . . . slow red
setting the place for the place.

When Miles dances through the city
he feels jazz music.

City buses, taxis, cars
thump-thumpin’ and bump-bumpin’ along
keepin’ steady time like the upright bass
with their roarin’ engines
and honkin’ horns

Skyscrapers, all shapes, all sizes,
litter the black, night sky
like the wide angles
of the trombone
with its bitty-brr-bop-slide, bop-slide, bop-slide.

Homeless Harry tryin' on his trumpet,
thinkin' he's Louis Armstrong
with his shoo-wop bleep
doody-shoo-wop bleep
seizin' center stage on the city corner.

Rich women prancin' down the
main street with their milk chocolate handbags
high-pitched and showy
blu-weee blinky-wee-EEEE
like the screechy sax solo.

Ladies' skirts swayin'
Teenagers struttin'
Dogs doo-woppin'
and babies boppin'

He feels jazz music in the
icy winds of winter.

That music in the
I-want-to-sit-and-be-blue rains of spring.

Jazz music in the
heavy-heat-city-beat of summer.
Music in the Billie Holiday voice of fall—
crimson crashing gold melting green.

When Miles grooves through the city
he f-e-e-l-s jazz music
jazz music jazz music
j a z z z z z m u s i c

Which statement **best** summarizes the poem "City Jazz"?

- A) A man reflects on the values of the Jazz Age.
- B) A man feels jazz in the pulse of a location as he walks through it.
- C) The speaker learns to appreciate the history of jazz and its roots.
- D) A musician becomes excited about the possibility of writing jazz music.

6

Read the lines from the poem "City Jazz."

blu-weee blinky-wee-EEEE
like the screechy sax solo.

Which statement **best** explains the poet's use of language in these lines?

- A) She rhymes many words to create a musical rhythm.
- B) She invents words to mimic the sounds a musician makes.
- C) She repeats sounds to emphasize the urgency of the moment.
- D) She creates a jazzy beat by imitating noises city vehicles make.

7

In the poem "City Jazz," how do the elements of the first three stanzas contribute to the meaning of the poem?

- A) The use of rhyme and pause reflects the slow nature of the traffic.
- B) The personification of musical instruments makes the music seem alive and exciting.
- C) The punctuation and repetition of words establish a rhythm that reflects both the city and jazz.
- D) The use of standard poetic structure emphasizes the relationship between music and words.

8

"America's Music: Jazz"
by Andrew Matthews

Above all other styles of music, jazz is considered a truly American art. It grew out of several musical forms—gospel hymns, blues, and ragtime—that are rooted in the history of blacks in America. Yet, even though its origins can be traced to music that had existed for centuries before it, jazz introduced a whole new sound.

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In the mid-1910s, African Americans began to leave the South in great waves in search of a better life. They relocated mostly to cities in the North, and they brought jazz with them. Chicago, Kansas City, and New York became the places where white audiences were introduced to the expressive new sound. Jazz began to flourish. In fact, the next decade became known as the Jazz Age.

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Homeless Harry tryin' on his trumpet,
thinkin' he's Louis Armstrong
with his shoo-wop bleep
doody-shoo-wop bleep
seizin' center stage on the city corner.

Part A:

Read the lines from the poem "City Jazz."

ELA Grade 7 the decade in which radio and records became popular.

These events made it easier to listen to jazz, because eager audiences no longer had to wait for a traveling band to come to their city and perform live. Jazz became a subject over which black and white people began to find common ground.

So what is jazz? It is highly personalized and focuses on individual interpretation and rhythm. Some of the most famous jazz arrangements have no words. They rely solely on the instruments (often piano, trumpet or saxophone) to do the "singing." The jazz musician has the freedom to vary the beat, the rhythm, and the volume. This flexibility allows the performer to compose, experiment, and reshape the music according to his or her feelings. And the freedom to alter and experiment while performing—known as improvisation—is an important element of jazz that truly sets it apart from traditional music styles.

Rich women prancin' down the
main street with their milk chocolate handbags
high-pitched and showy
blu-weee blinky-wee-EEEE
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j a z z z z z m u s i c

Rich women prancin' down the
main street with their milk chocolate handbags
high-pitched and showy

Which statement **best** explains how these lines demonstrate one of the central ideas discussed in “America’s Music: Jazz”?

- A) They support the idea that jazz is distinctly American.
- B) They illustrate the thriving economic culture of the Jazz Age.
- C) They reflect the experience of moving from a rural area to a city.
- D) They show how music enables individuals to express themselves.

Part B:

Which sentence from “America’s Music: Jazz” **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A) Above all other styles of music, jazz is considered a truly American art.
- B) They relocated mostly to cities in the North, and they brought jazz with them.
- C) The Roaring 20s was a time of great prosperity in the United States.
- D) The jazz musician has the freedom to vary the beat, the rhythm, and the volume.

9

Part A:

Read the excerpt from “City Jazz.”

Skyscrapers, all shapes, all sizes,
litter the black, night sky
like the wide angles
of the trombone
with its bitty-brr-bop-slide, bop-slide, bop-slide.

The poem most likely links the varying skyscrapers to the trombone

- A) to demonstrate how difficult it is for a jazz musician to play the trombone in a city.
- B) to show how someone playing the trombone sounds better during the night in the city.
- C) to illustrate how popular jazz continues to be in big cities with skyscrapers.
- D) to show how skyscrapers are as unique and various as the unique sounds a trombone can produce.

Part B:

Which sentence from “America’s Music: Jazz” **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A) It was also home to a diverse range of cultures, including black, Creole, French, Spanish, and Native American people.
- B) From the blending of all those sounds and cultures, jazz emerged.
- C) The Roaring 20s was a time of great prosperity in the United States. People had more money to spend and wanted to be entertained.
- D) They rely solely on the instruments (often piano, trumpet or saxophone) to do the “singing.” The jazz musician has the freedom to vary the beat, the rhythm, and the volume.

Excerpt from *Twelfth Night*

by William Shakespeare

In this scene, Viola—dressed as Cesario—has just been challenged to a duel by one of Olivia’s jealous suitors. Frightened for her life, Viola considers admitting to the aggressors that she is a woman when, suddenly, a stranger named Antonio enters the scene and prevents the fight from happening. Before Viola has a chance to thank Antonio or ask him who he is, two officers enter the scene and arrest Antonio for an offense he had committed years earlier.

Although Antonio is a complete stranger to Viola, the audience knows that Antonio recently rescued Viola’s twin brother, Sebastian, from the shipwreck. In an earlier scene, Antonio gave Sebastian his “purse,” or spending money to use during his visit to Illyria.

SECOND OFFICER: Come, sir, away.

ANTONIO: I must entreat of you some of that money.

VIOLA: What money, sir?

For the fair kindness you have showed me here,
And part being prompted by your present trouble,
Out of my lean and low ability
I'll lend you something; my having is not much;
I'll make division of my present with you:
Hold, there is half my coffer.

ANTONIO: Will you deny me now?
Is't possible that my deserts to you
Can lack persuasion? Do not tempt my misery,
Lest that it make me so unsound a man
As to upbraid^[1] you with those kindnesses
That I have done for you.

VIOLA: I know of none,
Nor know I you by voice or any feature.

ANTONIO: O heavens themselves!

SECOND OFFICER: Come, sir, I pray you go.

ANTONIO: Let me speak a little. This youth that you see here
I snatched one half out of the jaws of death,
Relieved him with such sanctity of love,—
And to his image, which methought did promise
Most venerable worth, did I devotion.

FIRST OFFICER: What's that to us? The time goes by; away.

ANTONIO: But O how vile an idol proves this god!
Thou hast, Sebastian, done good feature shame.
In nature there's no blemish but the mind;
None can be call'd deform'd but the unkind:
Virtue is beauty; but the beauteous evil
Are empty trunks, o'erflourished by the devil.

FIRST OFFICER: The man grows mad; away with him.
Come, come, sir.

ANTONIO: Lead me on.

[Exeunt Officers with ANTONIO.]

VIOLA: Methinks his words do from such passion fly
That he believes himself; so do not I.
Prove true, imagination; O prove true,
That I, dear brother, be now ta'en for you!
He named Sebastian; I my brother know
Yet living in my glass; even such and so
In favour was my brother; and he went
Still in this fashion, colour, ornament,
For him I imitate. O, if it prove,
Tempests are kind, and salt waves fresh in love!

[1] scold

Read the excerpt from *Twelfth Night*.

VIOLA: Methinks his words do from such passion fly

That he believes himself; so do not I.

Prove true, imagination; O prove true,

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In favour was my brother; and he went

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When Viola says she knows her brother is “living in my glass,” she means that her

- A) brother is trying to look like her.
- B) mirror shows her exactly where her brother is.
- C) brother resides in the same room as the mirror.
- D) reflection in the mirror looks like her brother.

12

Part A:

Which statement **best** explains how the interaction between Viola and Antonio affects Viola in the excerpt from *Twelfth Night*?

- A) It gives her hope that her brother is still alive.
- B) It flatters her to receive Antonio’s compliments.
- C) It encourages her to seek revenge for her brother.
- D) It angers her into denying Antonio’s requests for help.

Part B:

Which lines from *Twelfth Night* **best** support the answer to part A?

- A) Will you deny me now?
Is’t possible that my deserts to you
Can lack persuasion?
- B) I know of none,
Nor know I you by voice or any feature:
- C) I hate ingratitude more in a man
Than lying, vainness, babbling, drunkenness,
- D) O, if it prove,
Tempests are kind, and salt waves fresh in love!

13

Which statement **best** summarizes Antonio’s state of mind in the excerpt from *Twelfth Night*?

- A) He is excited because he believes that Viola is Sebastian.
- B) He is angry because he thinks Sebastian has betrayed him.
- C) He is frustrated because Viola steals from him.
- D) He is desperate because he wants Viola to forgive his treatment of Sebastian.

14

Read the lines from the excerpt from *Twelfth Night*.

He thinks his words do from such passion fly
That he believes himself; so do not I.
Prove true, imagination; O prove true,
That I, dear brother, be now ta’en for you!
He named Sebastian; I my brother know
Yet living in my glass; even such and so
In favour was my brother; and he went
Still in this fashion, colour, ornament,
For him I imitate. O, if it prove,
Tempests are kind, and salt waves fresh in love!

Which statement **best** describes the effect of the rhymes in these lines?

- A) They create a sense of resolution regarding Viola’s brother.

- B) They create suspense and call Antonio's motives into question.
- C) They emphasize Viola's longing to be reunited with her brother.
- D) They emphasize Antonio's behavior and praise his brave actions.

15

At the Theater

by Jeremy Ehrlich and Georgianna Ziegler

The Folger Shakespeare Library has a staff of librarians who answer questions about Shakespeare for scholars and the general public. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about the theaters of Shakespeare's day.

How many people did the Globe Theater hold?

According to theater historian Andrew Gurr, the Globe would have held approximately 1,000 people standing and 2,000 seated. The percentage might vary depending on the type of play. For example, for a play that appealed more to a popular audience, a larger number of people might have been accommodated in the standing room area.

What were theater ticket prices?

Prices of admission depended on the kind of theater. Outdoor theaters such as the Globe charged—in the early days—a one-penny admission fee (equal to about \$1.66 in today's money). A balcony seat was an additional penny. By the early 1600s, the entrance fee was probably a sixpence (about \$10). Admission to the private indoor theaters, which catered to a more affluent audience, generally began at a basic sixpence for a seat in the galleries. Fancy gallants who wanted to be seen could sit on the stage for two shillings (\$40), and a box could be had for half-a-crown (\$50).

What did Shakespeare's company use for costumes and scenery?

Clothing in Shakespeare's day was very expensive, and the costumes would have been some of the company's

most prized possessions. The majority of costumes were probably donated; wealthy patrons would sometimes leave costumes to the company in their wills. Scholars believe that the actors were generally dressed in clothes that modern Elizabethans would wear. If they were doing a play set in another time or place, they might add a costume piece to try to suggest the other setting, but they would still look like they belonged in England at the time of the production.

Scenery was probably much less elaborate than it is in many theaters today. Shakespeare's company played many different productions over the course of a week, so they would not have had the time or the money to put up large sets for each one. Most of the set pieces were probably very simple and suggestive: for example, a few characters might come in carrying torches to suggest an outdoor night scene.

How did men cover up their beards if they played women's roles in Shakespeare's theater?

Boys usually played women's parts on stage, so there was no problem about beards. In fact, Hamlet (the lead character in the tragedy *Hamlet*) jokes with one of the actors who visits the court in Denmark: "Why, thy face is valanced since I saw thee last," meaning that the boy has reached puberty and started to grow a beard. Since his voice would change about the same time, Hamlet says, "Pray God your voice, like a piece of uncurrent gold, be not cracked within the ring." These lines signaled the end of female roles for him. Older men probably played female roles from time-to-time, including comic figures such as Juliet's nurse, in the play *Romeo and Juliet*. In that case, they would probably shave off any beard.

Which **three** sentences from "At the Theater" supports the conclusion that the director and set designers had a very limited budget to work with in Shakespeare's time?

- ☐ According to theater historian Andrew Gurr, the Globe would have held approximately 1,000 people standing and 2,000 seated.
- ☐ For example, for a play that appealed more to a popular audience, a larger number of people might have been accommodated in the standing room area.
- ☐ Admission to the private indoor theaters, which catered to a more affluent audience, generally began at a basic sixpence for a seat in the galleries.
- ☐ Clothing in Shakespeare's day was very expensive, and the costumes would have been some of the company's most prized possessions.
- ☐ The majority of costumes were probably donated; wealthy patrons would sometimes leave costumes to the company in their wills.
- ☐ Shakespeare's company played many different productions over the course of a week, so they would not have had the time or the money to put up large sets for each one.

16

Read the excerpt from "At the Theater."

Scene was probably much less elaborate than it is in many theaters today. Shakespeare's company played many different productions over the course of a week, so they would not have had the time or the money to put up large sets for each one. Most of the set pieces were probably very simple and suggestive: for example, a few characters might come in carrying torches to suggest an outdoor night scene.

What is the meaning of the word "elaborate" in this excerpt?

- A)costly
- B)detailed
- C)explained
- D)practical

17

Which statement **best** explains how the authors use the structure of "At the Theater" to support their message?

- A)They compare the quality of theater performances in Shakespeare's time with those of today.
- B)They use subtitles to address common questions that people have about the theaters of Shakespeare's time.
- C)They describe the causes and illustrate the effects of specific social situations that existed during Shakespeare's time.
- D)They use numbered subsections to detail the main characteristics of theaters from Shakespeare's time in their order of importance.

18

The authors include a quote from *Hamlet* in "At the Theater" in order to

- A)demonstrate that the actors in Shakespeare's theater were highly trained to adapt and improvise.
- B)emphasize the fact that society valued the performing arts much more in the past than it does now.
- C)provide a humorous example acknowledging the fact that male actors generally played women's roles.
- D)compare modern performances of Shakespeare's plays with their original performances in Elizabethan times.

19

Based on "At the Theater," which statement **best** describes one characteristic of the theater productions that occurred during Shakespeare's time?

- A)The actors played comic roles more often than they played tragic ones.
- B)The actors typically wore Elizabethan clothing instead of costumes.
- C)The theater management established the cost of tickets based on one's financial status.
- D)The theater management focused on educating the people of England about the performing arts.

20

Based on "At the Theater," which statement **best** explains one reason that wealthy theater patrons were influential during Shakespeare's time?

- A)They controlled admission policies and prices for all performances.
- B)They provided theater companies with materials to build set pieces.
- C)They selected plays and determined when they would be performed.
- D)They donated the majority of costumes that theater companies used.