



MANON

Sample Lesson Plan: "Understanding *Manon*"

GRADE LEVELS	9-12
SUBJECT	Foreign Language (French)
TIMING	50 minutes
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE	This lesson is best used as a secondary lesson plan after introducing what an opera is.
AIM OF LESSON	Students will be introduced to the plot of <i>Manon</i> .
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will be introduced to three characters of <i>Manon</i>.• Students will gain an understanding of the role of convents in 17th Century, Paris.• Students will be able to describe <i>Manon</i> using simple sentences with adjectives.• Students will understand that there are two operas with the same name based on a book written by Prevost.
CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foreign Language (French)• Music and the Performing Arts
MATERIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projector• Computer• DVD of <i>Manon</i>• Madonna's <i>Material Girl</i>• Speakers• Whiteboard & whiteboard markers• 10 new French vocabulary words from the opera• Copies of the song <i>Obéissons quand leur voix appelle</i>
NATIONAL STANDARDS	<p>Ice-Breaker (5 minutes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Listen to Madonna's <i>Material Girl</i>. Ask students to describe the personality of the girl in the song. <p>Introduce <i>Manon</i> (5 minutes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell students about going to <i>Manon</i>. Give background on the composer (Jules Massenet), and the original novel by Antoine-Francois Prevost, <i>L'histoire du chevalier des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut</i> (1731).2. Have students pair-share.3. Introduce the history of convents. Convents were frequently used to house unmarried or rebellious women as an alternative to prisons. In the opera, Manon's family has her cousin meet her to take her to a convent. When her cousin leaves her alone, Manon is tempted away by material things. <p>Listening to the Music of <i>Manon</i> (15 minutes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Listen to three arias: <i>Je suis encore tout étourdie</i>, from Act I, <i>Adieu, notre petite table</i> from Act II and <i>N'est-ce plus ma main</i>

	<p>from Act III. Have students determine the tone of each without focusing on the language, but on the music. Ask them why they came to these conclusions based on what they heard in the music.</p> <p>Reading Activity (20 minutes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hand out copies of <i>Obéissons quand leur voix appelle</i> (see below for full lyrics). Have students translate the song. Then, play it when they are finished. <p>Reflection (5 minutes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask students what they are most excited to see at the opera.
ASSESSMENTS	<p>Formal Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework: Have students write five complete sentences in French beginning with the words "Je suis" and have them listen to the song <i>Obéissons quand leur voix appelle</i> along with their translation. If they did not finish the translation in class, have them finish that as well. <p>Informal Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen for students' pronunciation as they speak French. Correct as needed.



Lyrics to *Obeissons quand leur voix appelle* from *Manon*

MANON

Obeissons quand leur
voix appelle, aux tendres
amours, toujours, toujours,
toujours, tant que vous
etes belle, usez sans les
compter vos jours, tous vos
jours ! Profitons bien de la
jeunesse, des jours qu'amene
le printemps ; aimons, rions,
chantons sans cesse, nous
n'avons encor que vingt ans !

BRETIGNY et JEUNES GENS

Profitons bien de la jeunesse !

MANON

Profitons bien de la jeunesse,
aimons, rions, chantons
sans cesse, nous n'avons
encor que vingt ans ! Ah ! Ah !

JEUNES GENS

Profitons bien de la jeunesse !
Rions ! Ah ! Ah !

MANON

Le coeur, Mias! le plus fidele,
oublie en un jour l'amour,
l'amour, et la jeunesse
ouvrant son aile a disparu
sans retour, sans retour.
Profitons bien de la jeunesse,
bien courte, hélas ! est le
printemps !
Aimons, chantons, rions
sans cesse, nous n'aurons
pas toujours vingt ans !

JEUNES GENS

Profitons bien de la jeunesse !

MANON

Profitons bien de la jeunesse !
Aimons, chantons,
rions sans cesse,
profitons bien de nos vingt ans !
Ah ! Ah !

JEUNES GENS

Profitons bien de la jeunesse !
Rions ! Ah ! Ah !