Music to my ears

**Activity 1: talk about it**

1. What is your favorite movie soundtrack?
2. What does the music bring to the movie?
3. What else can music be used for in movies?

**Activity 2: match the categories**

Since the dawn of civilisation, there has been music. For many of us, it plays an integral part in our daily lives. Music can be used to brighten our day, to help us deal with something sad, to get us in the spirit for an important game, or to help us relax.

Films and television shows often incorporate music. Music can be used in order to:

- a. evoke a period of history
- b. describe what the characters are feeling
- c. heighten suspense
- d. bring new musicians and music groups to the public’s attention
- e. guide the audience’s mood

Match the categories above to the explanations below:

1. During a sad scene, sad sounding music could be played. This way, viewers feel sad not just because of what they see, but also because of what they hear.

2. This is often used in horrors and thrillers. A famous example is the movie *Jaws*. The music tells the audience that the shark is in the vicinity. This way, the audience is on the edge of their seats before the scary stuff even begins!

3. Music can be used to transport the audience to a certain era. If a scene takes place during the early 1990s, a song by Backstreet Boys or N'Sync could be playing in the background.

4. Lyrics can be very powerful. Musicians use songs as a vehicle to express themselves. A song’s lyrics could capture perfectly the state of mind of a character in a particular scene. Through the use of music, a character can express his/her feelings without ever saying a word.

5. Movies and television shows often use unknown musicians’ work. This benefits both sides because the rights to these songs are less expensive and the songs get exposure e.g. *Skins* used MGMT’s *Time to Pretend* for the series 2 finale.
Activity 3: watch and categorize

You are going to watch two scenes that incorporate music. In small groups discuss why that music was used by referring to Activity 2. The music may fit into more than one category. Identify why it fits into that category and if it fulfils its role.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scene?</th>
<th>What is the music’s role?</th>
<th>Why is this the music’s role?</th>
<th>Does the music fulfil this role? How?</th>
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Activity 4: choose the music

Think of a narrative that everyone in your group knows; this could be a novel, a play, a poem or an urban legend. Pick four of the most important events in the narrative. Imagine that the narrative is being made into a film and that these events will become scenes.

For each scene, find a piece of music that you think would compliment it in some way. Identify which role this music will play in the scene. Think about how the song is fulfilling this role.

Create a presentation including the following elements:
- a short description of the scenes chosen
- why those scenes were chosen
- the music that was chosen
- the role of the music in the scenes
- a description of how it fulfils those roles
- illustrations, animations or photographs that represent the events or the emotions of the scenes.

Don’t be afraid to use your creativity!