



MUSIC – ART – CRAFT – DRAMA REVIEWS



“What a fantastic resource. I especially liked your format, including preparation suggestions up front, suggested actions to use with the lyrics, the focus on literacy and drama and then your extension ideas...It's like a blueprint for success!!!”

Developing Literacy with Visual and Performing Arts

A DoDEA ‘Teacher of the Year’, with a Bachelor of Music degree, writes to Jazzles program author, Lesley Beth, about using the Jazzles Visual and Performing Arts **creative instructional strategies** to develop literacy outcomes.

----- Original Message

Dear Lesley,

Classroom teachers love it when resource teachers like me reinforce their goals. I am a music teacher at a DoDEA elementary school. One of the DoDEA national standards for music in the classroom is that we tie music to other areas of the curriculum. In my school, the improvement goal is focused on literacy. Our school improvement strategies must be research based so we are always looking for new ways to teach reading and language arts skills that have promising data. Music is reading! I've found that students attend better, and learn more quickly when pictures and movement are associated with lyrics.

When we sing, I focus on teaching the child to match pitch, use correct rhythm, vowel placement and diction. Simple tunes are ideal for young children to build their singing voices. My students love the songs! The jazzy accompaniment is too cool! **I use the rhythm of words (really syllables) to teach beginning note reading.** We take the rhythm patterns and play them in various ways on the instruments in my classroom. Thank You!



(Above) Karaoke is a fun way to recycle Jazzles lyrical stories to develop vocabulary in connected text. And you do not need a sound system to do it. All of the children above have created their own pretend microphones using cardboard cylinders and aluminum foil. (Left) Preschoolers in a San Antonio Headstart are just as happy as the kindergartners in Finlay, N. Dakota. It's all about the opportunity to perform!

----- Original Message

I LOVE the karaoke version of the A song. **I can use it for solos this week in music. I have a sound system in my classroom and the children love to sing in the microphones.** I've taught the Jazzles songs A, B and C to my K, 1st and 2nd graders. I've been impressed with the quality of the accompaniment. They are a lot of fun. Many of my kids have dads and moms away in Iraq and other parts of the world. I love them and always want to do the very best I can for them.

----- Original Message

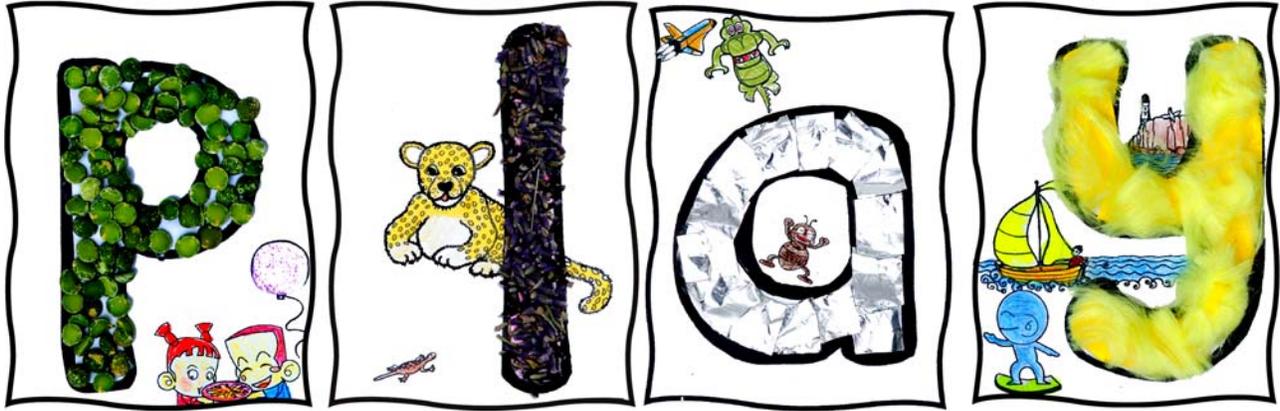
I had enough time to show "Angry Alligator" at the workshop today. The other music teachers loved it! I'm hoping they're motivated to do more in their classroom with the general curriculum. I've sent them to your website! Thanks for everything!



(Above) **Ideal for dramatic interpretation!** As you can imagine from this storyboard sequence of the 'Angry Alligator' animation, children have great fun dramatically interpreting the story for live performances. Use the animation to develop comprehension and oral language through inferential questions. Also perfect for demonstrating the role of facial expressions and words like 'astonished'. Children absolutely love the ridiculousness of the plot and love to hear it over and over. Don't be astonished by the big words! Children love them! Big words are the most easily remembered and the ones children love to use to show off to their parents and siblings!

----- Original Message

Hey, Lesley,
 My students love the images! Their favorite one is the Angry Alligator Animation. They think it's hilarious when the alligator is shot with arrows. The boys love it. I hear..."Let's do it again!" They also like Terrified of Tigers. **Some of my older students have asked me if I've been singing a song about alligators and tigers with their younger siblings, because they sing it at home all the time!** The teachers I showed it to thought it was sooo cool. I wish there had been more time to share the Jazzles songs, but I showed enough to whet their appetite. Thanks!



(Above) Each Jazzles Craft Page is themed linked to the appropriate animation. Use these pages for alliterative collage to reinforce letter-sound knowledge and phonemic awareness skills. (Left) **Peas** for letter 'p'. **Lavender** for letter 'l'. **Aluminum** foil for 'a'. **Yellow yarn** for letter 'y'. Once completed, use to blend words. See A-Z Lesson Plans for options.

----- **Original Message**

Oh, Lesley!
 ADORABLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I can not tell you how wonderful your resource is. I KNOW my kids will love it. They love the song, "Clever Kid" already. I am so appreciative of your sharing with me. You are AWESOME!
 Thank you, so much, Lesley. God bless!

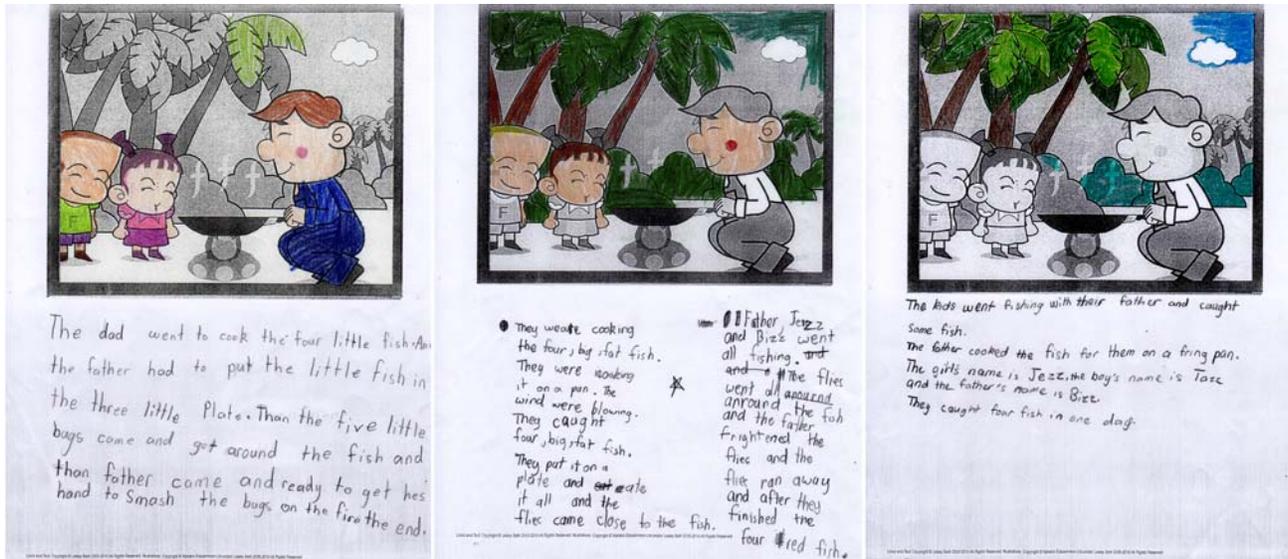


(Above) Kinesthetic learners love the way the animations start with uppercase letter formation. You will find no shortage of volunteers when you use this visualization for kinetic learning by having children re-enact on the floor!

----- **Original Message**

Oh, Lesley!
 Love it, love it! I love the Blue Band members coming together in the shape of the letters.

I'm a kinesthetic learner myself and teach the children how to become "quarter notes, half notes..." I know they learn that way. The animated files are AWESOME! I cannot wait to see how the children react to them next week. I will tell you all about it!!



(Above) Jazzles Storyboard Pages help children compose their own narrative versions of the Jazzles animations. While it can often be hard to motivate children to write creatively, the Jazzles pedagogy uses drama to create the initial motivation. Drama enables children to experience a story they have seen visualized in each of the Jazzles animations. By turning the lyrics into dramatic performances or a 'living experiences', children develop a rich understanding of the story and the words and phrases in the lyrics. Talking together as a group, you will notice that they become inventive in their choice of language and the details of their story. Acting out a Jazzles animation has provided them with the confidence, knowledge and motivation to 'tell it their way'. The mix of oral and visual formats turns them into script writers even before they have put their pencils to paper. (There's a Jazzles Storyboard Page for each animation.)

Remedial Teacher Using Jazzles Storyboards for Creative Writing

-- Original Message

I wanted to tell you how great I have found Jazzles for creative writing in Grades 1 and 2. For example, after the children had interacted with the Fat Fish song Animation by singing, discussion and drama, we extended vocabulary by inferential questioning and brainstorming to list 'feeling' words and adjectives for our 'fishing' or 'beach' story writing. The Jazzles Storyboard Page (see above) cued children who accessed their internalized vocabulary from the song to scaffold their own story. This was invaluable for ESL students who experienced newfound writing success! **It was rewarding and exciting to see every child inspired and enthusiastically writing.**

Language Development Specialist

This teacher's specialty is Language Development through the Visual and Performing Arts. Her experience includes Title VII Language Development Resource Coordinator (for LAUSD), a Special Ed Teacher, a Title VII Bilingual Spanish Two Way Immersion Teacher, a Categorical Program Adviser (Title I and Bilingual) and a Music Teacher.

----- Original Message

Subject: Kinder and 1st plus Open Court.

Hi Lesley

I have had experience with the new Open Court program with K-5. The Open Court songs are "boring". There is no other word for them.

The music I use and the kids just adore them for Kinder and 1st grade are 'JAZZLES' which works on the letters of the alphabet **and I think is a "must have" for any teacher of kinder and 1st grade.** I have actions to each of the songs and even have worked out props. I am trying to encourage each of my schools to invest in your program for each kinder and first grade room too!

----- Original Message

Subject: Re: Jazzles benefits:

The Blue Bus Blues sold me on it just by listening to it and then when I saw the content of some of the other songs on the web site I bought it. My students especially love the C song (*see below*) because there are many things which they can't do yet but it also talks about the things they can do. By the way we say "oh honey" and make driving noises during the song! We stir the cake and pull the cat's tail and we make a crocodile's mouth to begin! **I can't have as much fun with other program materials!!!!!!!**



(Above) From being chased by a crocodile to catching a cat, the Jazzles 'Clever Kid' animation is full of opportunities for dramatic interpretation. With Jazzles, drama is used purposefully, letting children live inside the story and its lyrical texts. Teachers see immediate results not just in learning but also in motivation to become involved - even from the most reluctant or shy students! Apart from oral language and comprehension going through 'the roof', children can demonstrate incredible insights of interpretation based either on their imagination and/or their own experiences. Weeks later, children will still be remembering their roles, even as new dramatic opportunities open with the next Jazzles animation. Dramatization and its benefits also make a significant impact on parents, who remark on oral language development, motivation and confidence.

----- Original Message

Our ISD is very big now on the Open Court Literacy Program and also on the Waterford Early Literacy Program (computer). In fact teachers are complaining that all they do is Open Court and math! The kids can decode **but don't understand what they have decoded if they are second language learners.**

What is so neat about all of the Jazzles songs is that they don't have the same basic rhythmic background music. For example the Blue Bus Blues is a Blues and so you can get to discuss why the person is feeling "blue". The C song is great for dramatization so if you want I'll send you my choreography for that. The NO, NO, NO song is great around Halloween so plan on using that in October. I work at five schools and the Jazzles goes with me everyday!

----- Original Message --

I absolutely think Jazzles is great. **The music is not only catchy but it is great for teaching different kinds of music such as the blues too.** Holler if you want info immediately. The best thing is to really listen to the music, make giant posters which can be highlighted with see through post-its (they can be removed). Accumulate props if you think you will use them!

----- Original Message ----

I have to reinforce the Open Court version of the alphabet song as every child now is immersed in Open Court for reading. I supplement that with the Jazzles **to reinforce the sound of the letters and to have fun acting out the songs.** That is worth every penny!

----- Original Message --

It was 2 p.m. and my *fourth* sugar-saturated, Valentine-party-high kindergarten class of the day was blissfully spread around the music room floor coloring the "Orange Octopus" page from the JAZZLES collection. They love this song, and I like it too, but **each class wanted the song played continuously as they colored.** I kept trying to sneak in a promo for another cute song we'll add when they get to "Q" in a few weeks, but they wouldn't settle for anything but their Octopus song.



(Above) The Jazzles 'Orange Octopus' animation provides children with a myriad of opportunities to develop their understanding of stories, meanings and feelings by using their imagination to act out the scenes they see on-screen. And props are not necessary! In this example, four children work together to be the orange octopus sitting in the center. Using their arms, they imitate the octopus's eight outstretched arms to grab scuba divers. In a world where children are saturated with images, texts and sounds, dramatic performance helps them go directly for meaning while also developing oral vocabulary, discussion skills and cross-curricula knowledge. In this case that octopus have neither legs nor tentacles but eight arms!

-- Original Message

Jazzles will work for your little ones as well as the kinders and first graders. **The little ones will really be ready for phonemic awareness if they learn the songs and act them out.** If you want my choreography holler, with the little ones it may be best to simplify movement by everyone doing the same thing and or some people holding up an item when it is mentioned. It depends on the song. I can just imagine some of the little ones as goats in grandpas' garden gobbling up the little flowers.

It certainly would be a hit with the parents. **If you have some really ready kids they may begin reading for real as a result of this program.** I will probably put my choreography on Music Madness Education web site when I have a few more minutes to transcribe my choreography notes. I'll tell everyone on MK8 when it is ready.



(Above) Jazzles uses the Arts to also develop non-cognitive skills and talents. Inspired performances need volunteers for backing singers, costumes and dressing-up, making props and masks. Depending on age, this gives many opportunities for children to find their strengths and develop skills such as filming, lighting, directing, script writing, sound engineering, creating backdrops, lighting and editing. **(Left)** Headstart preschoolers create a blue bus out of packing cases for a class performance. **(Center)** Students in N. Dakota become zooming zebras and buzzing bees using props they have made. **(Right)** Same children now are discovering everything there is to know about 'terrifying tigers tip-toeing through the tree tops! A favorite with every child, they take turns to wear tiger masks while others are trees in the jungle and still more try to escape from the tigers!

-- Original Message

Music teacher, New Jersey - Subject: Year End Parent Performance

Lesley, we just loved your alphapazzaz **song and it was great at our concert last year.** My theme this year for 1st grade is color, so I am thinking Blue Bus Blues because it refers to lots of different colors, brown bear, black bag, etc. **Thanks for a wonderful resource. I'm always looking for ways to connect music in the curriculum.**



(Above) Children use percussion instruments for dramatic interpretation of the 'Volatile Volcano' erupting with a 'vroom'. Using the Jazzles lesson guides for Music and the Arts, teachers can develop comprehension skills that are wider and deeper than usually found in the curriculum through engaging, creative practice supporting even the weakest learner. Children start to learn on their own, developing understanding of more difficult texts and concepts, reinforced by inferential questioning from teachers and social interaction with class members.

-- Original Message

New York State School Principal and NYC Board of Education Supervisor of the Year Award.

What it really does superbly is take these traditional early childhood classroom activities, and through its interactive program of music, movement and creative games, **it enhances and reinforces the literary skills expected of kindergarten and grade one students today.**

-- Original Message

Instructional Specialist

Using Jazzles, our school no longer has to sacrifice the fun of play and creativity to achieve literacy outcomes and the kids and their parents just love it!