**Group 2:**

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**Grade:** 7th/8th

**Movie Theme Music**

<http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/blueprint.html>

**Objective:** The students will identify, discuss and recognize the effects and purpose of music when used as thematic material.

**Materials:** Variety of Instruments (whatever is available), Computer, Movie: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban & Superman Returns*

**Introduction:** Play a clip of a movie (using more recent movie that your students will have seen and be able to relate to) or character theme song.

Ask students “What does the music do for the clip?” “What would happen if we took the music away?” “What would happen to the emotion or the message of the scene?”

**Step 1:** Play students a silent clip of a scene from *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (Music by John Williams) “What emotion is being portrayed in this scene?”

**Step 2:** Have students pick an instrument to play their own background music for the scene. Play the scene again while students are creating their own thematic music. (If recording equipment is available record the student’s thematic composition and play it simultaneously with the scene)

**Step 3:** Play the clip with original audio.

**Step 4:** Engage students in a discussion about how their thematic music was different or similar to that of the music played in the scene.

**Step 5:** Play another, contrasting silent clip. Give students the chance to pick a different instrument. Have them create a new background theme for this second clip. Discuss the experience with the students.

**Step 6:** Engage students in a discussion about the purpose of thematic music. “What is the purpose of background music?” “What is the purpose of theme music?”

* a. character identification
* b. creating the feelings of tension and release, joy, anticipation, fear, humor.
* c. enhancing or commenting on a visual effect

**Conclusion:** Ask students to think of a song as their own “Theme Song.” Ask them to consider why they choose this song.

**Extension:** Students could write a journal entry about what song they choose as their theme song, and why they think this song best fits them.