



LISTENING GUIDE

“JACK & DIANE” BY JOHN MELLENCAMP

Meets National Core Arts Standards 5, 7, 9, and 11

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and refine artistic work for presentation (*Pr5*)
- Perceive and analyze artistic work (*Re7*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (*Re9*)
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding (*Cn11*)

MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (Vol.39 No.2)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

Ask your students to read “Listening Guide” on pages 20-21.

DEVELOP

► **Play** “Jack & Diane” by John Mellencamp (*Hear the Music track 2* on *musicalive.com*) while having the students follow along with the timeline.

2. Ask students about the song

What instruments do you hear?

Are the instruments loud or soft?

In the intro, are there long notes, short notes, or both?

In the first verse, are there long notes, short notes, or both?

When do you hear the shakers come in?

What story do the lyrics tell? Does it fit well with the tune?

At what point do the hand claps drop out? When do they return?

Does this song showcase impressive vocals from Mellencamp?

How would you characterize his vocals?

At 2:30 the song builds a very different sound.

How well does this section fit in? Do you like it better

or worse than the remainder of the song?

What instruments are used during the bridge?

What is the message?

CLOSE

1. “Jack & Diane” was Mellencamp’s only No.1 hit on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart. Compare it to another song off the same album, “Hurts So Good.”

2. Why do you think “Jack & Diane” became a bigger hit than “Hurts So Good?”

3. Which song do you like better?

ASSESS

Did the students follow along with the Listening Guide?

Did they listen to the song using the timeline?

Did they answer the supplemental questions?

QUIZ ANSWERS

This month’s quizzes are available at musicalive.com/the-quiz-zone-39-2. Here are the quiz answers:

SOUNDTRACKS

- 1) John Williams
- 2) The Soundtrack Show
- 3) A story template of the hero’s journey that is made up of several phases
- 4) The dramatic intensity of each stage of the hero’s journey is reflected in the pitches of the melody
- 5) Steven Spielberg
- 6) Ostinato
- 7) The 1930s
- 8) Enrich Korngold
- 9) The 1930s and 1940s
- 10) *E.T.* and *Indiana Jones*

FRETLESS STRINGS, PART 2: THE MASTERS

- 1) Yuri Bashmet
- 2) Russia
- 3) Being unpredictable
- 4) The Moscow Soloists
- 5) David Oistrakh
- 6) Germany
- 7) Pablo Casals
- 8) He unearthed the beauty of the Solo Suites of JS Bach that were previously dismissed as nothing more than technical exercises
- 9) Gary Karr
- 10) His beaming personality and expressiveness on the bass

MAROON 5

- 1) 15
- 2) *Red Pill Blues*, “Girls Like You”
- 3) James Valentine
- 4) Adam Levine
- 5) Singable melodies, popular chord progressions, lyrics that tell a love story
- 6) *Songs About Jane*
- 7) Kara’s Flowers, *We Like Digging?*
- 8) Best New Artist
- 9) Jesse Carmichael
- 10) Launched a fashion line, record label and TV series and is a coach on *The Voice*