

➤ LEAN ON ME

Target Group: **Years 5 and 6**

Australian Curriculum Reference: **Music**

- + Explore dynamics and expression, using aural skills to identify and perform rhythm and pitch patterns (ACAMUM088).
- + Develop technical and expressive skills in singing and playing instruments with understanding of rhythm, pitch and form in a range of pieces, including in music from the community (ACAMUM089).

LESSON SUMMARY

Students will learn and perform the song *Lean on me* and discuss its meaning for volunteering.

LESSON CONTENT AND METHODOLOGY

- + Students listen to the song *Lean on me* by Bill Withers: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ko_FpYRVtFQ
- + Students research the background to the song and answer the following questions.
 - + Where was it written?
 - + Who wrote the music?
 - + Who wrote the lyrics?
 - + When was it written?
- + Students research three people who have covered the song and consider how their version is different from the original.
- + Teacher introduces definition of volunteering (available at Volunteering Australia's website: www.volunteeringaustralia.org).
- + Teacher leads discussion to direct student understanding about how volunteering can be considered to be *lending a hand*, focusing on the lyrics:
 - + If there is a load you have to bear
 - + That you can't carry
 - + I'm right up the road
 - + I'll share your load.
- + Teacher introduces the concept of developing a video to accompany a performance students will give of the song. Students brainstorm the sorts of images of volunteering they could use in the video clip. Teacher facilitates a class discussion about the images they will use and which group of students will work on the video.

- + The class learns the song for a choral performance that will be given at the school assembly.
- + At the assembly a student will introduce the item, telling the school how the class has used the song to accompany their video on volunteering. The class will perform the song with the video playing in the background.

ASSESSMENT

Teacher to determine appropriate assessment.

RESOURCES

- + *Lean on me* (by Bill Withers): www.youtube.com/watch?v=ko_FpYRVtFQ
- + *Lean on me* lyrics: www.metrolyrics.com/lean-on-me-lyrics-bill-withers.html for Worksheet 1
- + *Lean on me* sheet music (purchase price: \$7.11):
www.musicnotes.com/sheetmusic/mtdFPE.asp?ppn=MN0072685
- + Volunteering Australia website: www.volunteeringaustralia.org

WORKSHEET 1

Lean on me: Lyrics

1. Sometimes in our lives we all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow
2. Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on
3. Please swallow your pride
If I have faith you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show
4. You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on
5. Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on
6. You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on
7. If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
8. If you just call me (call me)
If you need a friend (call me)
Call me uh huh (call me)
If you need a friend (call me)
If you ever need a friend (call me)
9. Call me (call me) call me (call me) call me
(Call me) call me (call me) if you need a friend
(Call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me
(call me) call me (call me)

Songwriter: WITHERS, BILL

Published by Lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group

Lyrics from: www.metrolyrics.com/lean-on-me-lyrics-bill-withers.html

Video from: www.metrolyrics.com/bill-withers-albums-list.html#live-at-carnegie-hall-album-bill-withers

Read more: www.metrolyrics.com/lean-on-me-lyrics-bill-withers.html#ixzz3c86vuwE