

I Am Musical Classroom Materials

Class Activities

- Exchanging Playlists!
 - Throughout the book, Crouton and Waffles mention music that they enjoy and share with others. For this activity, students will use the story to create a playlist curated for either Waffles or Crouton. Students should be encouraged to consider the personality of each character, which genres they believe the character would enjoy, and use moments from the story to support their song choices! Once completed, students who chose Waffles can be paired with students who chose Crouton and the playlists can be exchanged and discussed. This is a great opportunity for role playing, music research, identifying musical elements, and creative expression!
- Instrument Scavenger Hunt
 - Waffles and Crouton explore the city and encounter several different expressions of music. For this activity, students will search the details of the story's illustrations to find as many musical instruments as possible. Working in small groups, each student can be given a sheet of paper where they are asked to jot down the various instruments they see appear in the story. Each group will work to name the most instruments. This activity is perfect for engagement in a playful competition and is also an excellent connection to lessons regarding instrument families!

- Mapping Music Technology
 - Our methods of listening to music have drastically changed over time! In this activity, students are asked to carefully consider each scene in the story and jot down any music technology they see used in the illustrations. Once the students have identified the radio, portable speaker, gramophone, portable music player, and turn table, they can then work in small groups to try and order the devices from oldest to newest! Students can discuss why they believe one device is older than another and can share prior experiences that may inform their choices (for example a student may remember a gramophone from a grandparent's home)! This activity is a great opportunity to discuss how technological advances affect the way a culture consumes music and how technology has made music more accessible over time!
- Album Art Design
 - Album art is one of the special moments in music when the visual experience works alongside the audio experience! On page 18, Crouton shares an album with a friend. In this activity, students will be designing the cover of that album! Students should be encouraged to consider what kind of music is being shared, what the album is called, and work to pull inspiration from other album art they have seen! This activity is a great opportunity to explore album art from all generations and to even discuss how iconic album art reappears throughout history. For example, the illustrations on page 7 are inspired by the Abbey Road album of The Beatles!

Discussion Questions:

Use the following questions during or after reading the story to prompt discussions, activities, and creative thinking!

1. On page 1, what music do you think Crouton listened to that morning?
2. On page 3, what do you think the hat on the ground is used for?
3. On page 6, what noise do you think Waffles is making into the microphone?
4. On page 8, why would a store sell blank sheet music?
5. On page 9, what kind of music do you think the couple on the bench is listening to?
6. On page 10, what is one thing on this page that is probably making music?
7. On page 11, Waffles looks like she is the member of a special band. What is that kind of band called?
8. On page 13, what kind of questions do you think Waffles is asking the birds, squirrel, and owl?
9. On page 15, what kind of music can make you want to dance? Cry? Laugh? Love?
10. On page 17, how is Crouton musical?
11. On page 19, who ate all of Crouton's treats?