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Beethoven's Love Letters



Teacher Lesson Plan

Standard/Objective

- * Identify and use processes important to reconstructing and reinterpreting the past, such as using a variety of sources; providing, validating, and weighing evidence for claims, checking credibility of sources; and searching for causality. (NCSS)
- * Acting as detectives, students will piece together clues about Beethoven's Immortal Beloved and make an educated guess as to her identity.

Materials

- * copies of the *Attention Grabber* (pages 85–87); *Graphic Organizer* (page 88); *Background Information* (pages 89–91); *Clues in the Letter* (pages 92–93); *The Candidates* (pages 94–96); *The Portrait* (page 97); *Extra Thoughts on the Candidates* (page 98); *Beethoven's Itinerary* (pages 99–100); *Signed, The Immortal Beloved* (page 101)
- * Post-it® Notes
- * Beethoven's music

Discussion Questions

- * What kind of letter is this?
- * Who wrote this letter?
- * Who was the letter written to?

The Activity: Day 1

Before students come into class, make copies of the *Attention Grabber* (pages 85–87). This is a love letter written by Beethoven. Fold the letter and then tape one under each desk. Have students close their eyes and listen to the following scenario that you will read to them.

Scenario: Your sadness is so great that you can hardly stand it. It was just yesterday that Beethoven died. He was a great composer, but he was also your brother. You sigh. At least you don't have to be in here alone. Beethoven's two friends have come to help you search his apartment. You know the papers are in here somewhere. More than 10 years ago, your other brother died. He left behind a son named Karl. These papers, or bank shares, will help your nephew, Karl. Beethoven had willed these bank shares to him, and you are in charge of finding those papers. You investigate everywhere, looking, hunting, exploring. As you search his cabinet, you are suddenly aware that there is a secret compartment underneath. You yell to Beethoven's friends that you have found something. You carefully open it up. First, you pull out a portrait. You look on the backside to see if there is a name or a dedication. There isn't. You and your brother's friends are not sure if you know this woman. Next, you pull out a letter and open it. Surprisingly, it is addressed to you and your other brother. Hmm. It was written about 25 years ago.

Beethoven's Love Letters



The Portrait

Directions: This portrait was found among Beethoven's belongings after his death. Who is this woman and is she his Immortal Beloved? Compare her photo with other women Beethoven knew from that time.

