

# Lesson 34: Jazz

*"Jazz is not just music, it's a way of life, it's a way of being, a way of thinking."*  
—Nina Simone

**Social Justice Standards: Identity 5, Diversity 7**

## Summary

Originating from African American traditions, jazz is a unique blend of many different music styles, with deep roots in blues and ragtime. Popular jazz instruments include the piano, saxophone, double bass, and the drums, giving the sound a unique and emotional rhythm. The books in this lesson provide perspectives on jazz and its influence on African American culture.

## Booklist

- *Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph* by Roxane Orgill, illustrated by Francis Vallejo
- *Jazz* by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Christopher Myers
- *When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson* by Pam Muñoz Ryan, illustrated by Brian Selznick
- *Skit-Scat Raggedy Cat: Ella Fitzgerald* by Roxanne Orgill, illustrated by Sean Qualls
- *Trombone Shorty* by Troy Andrews, illustrated by Bryan Collier
- *This Jazz Man* by Karen Ehrhardt, illustrated by R. G. Roth

## Consider This

- What are some aspects of jazz music that you enjoy?
- What instrument makes you think about jazz the most? How would the feel of the music differ if that instrument was no present?

## Talk Together

- Does jazz music influence you to move your body?
- In jazz music, it is said that the instruments have a conversation together. While listening to a jazz song, what do you think the instruments are talking about?

## *Engage*

Many of the books in this lesson profile real, famous jazz musicians. Search online for some of their recordings and listen and dance! How do you feel when you hear the music?

## *Explore More*

- Phylicia Hollis Butler's YouTube video "What is Jazz Music?"
- Mr. Boom Boom's Music's YouTube video "Jazz for Kids with Mr. Boom Boom"