Even Songs Can Have a Plot!
http://www.songsforteaching.com/folk/

This link contains tons of folk songs not only from traditional American singers, but from other cultures around the world.

Students can look at the lyrics / listen to the songs and you can talk about how a story doesn't always have to have a ton of action in it to be considered a story.

For instance, check out these lyrics from "Buffalo Gals"

As I was walking down the street,
Down the street, down the street,
A handsome fellow I chanced to meet,
Oh, he was fair to see.

Buffalo Gals, won't you come out tonight,
Come out tonight, come out tonight.
Buffalo Gals, won't you come out tonight
And dance by the light of the moon.

He stopped me and we had a talk,
Had a talk, had a talk,
His feet took up the whole sidewalk
And left no room for me.

Buffalo Gals, won't you come out tonight,
Come out tonight, come out tonight.
Buffalo Gals, won't you come out tonight
And dance by the light of the moon.

He asked me if I'd have a dance,
Have a dance, have a dance,
He thought that he might have a chance
To shake a foot with me.

Buffalo Gals, won't you come out tonight,
Come out tonight, come out tonight.
Buffalo Gals, won't you come out tonight
And dance by the light of the moon.

We have a **setting** (a street somewhere at nighttime) and we have a **character** (1st person point-of-view) who notices a "handsome fellow" who was "fair to see." ***Ask your students: Who is this about and what is happening?***

Is there a student in your class with a smartphone who could look up what a "Buffalo Gal" was? Could a student jump on a classroom computer or even your teacher computer to look it up? **Ask your students: What do we know about the plot of the "story"?**

Finally, could your students write or tell a **summary** of the events? "Somebody wanted… but… so…"

Could your students **write their own ending** to this song where the girl either does or does not dance with the handsome man?

© languageartsteachers.com

Even Songs Can Have a Plot!

Look at the lyrics / listen to the song and you see that a story doesn't always have to have a ton of action in it to be considered a story.

For instance, check out these lyrics from " "

COPY AND PASTE SONG LYRICS HERE FOR STUDENTS TO READ THROUGH. PLAY THE SONG AS WELL :)

EXPOSITION
Who is this about and where is it taking place?

What do we know about the plot of the "story" in this song?

How can we summarize what is happening in the song?

© languageartsteachers.com