



Secret Songs

Presenting a song as a “Secret Song” entails performance of a song in other than in whole form. For example, the rhythm of a song might be tapped in the palm of one hand, or the melody line can silently be drawn in the air. Students are asked to identify the title of the song that was performed and to keep it a secret until the teacher asks them to reveal their answer.

When a student guesses the name of the song, the teacher’s response may be, “Could be! Let’s check it out.” Everyone sings the song that was named. “To check your idea, sing the suggested song in your mind and listen as I tap my song.” Teacher taps and students sing in their heads. “Do your song and mine match?” Right or wrong, this gives students the opportunity to solve the puzzle on their own.

To reveal the identity of the song, the teacher can tap the song and sing it aloud. “This is the song I sang in my mind, my inner hearing, as I tapped.”

Why “Secret Song” is Used in Education

- “Secret Song” activities can be an extremely engaging way of introducing a song the students have previously studied. Everyone loves a puzzle to solve.
- Engaging in secret song activities gives students the opportunity to use their [inner hearing](#).
- Identifying a secret song is like solving a puzzle which can be a lot of fun.
- The secret-song strategy can be an excellent tool for song study and analysis.

Introducing “Secret Song”

“A ‘Secret Song’ is kind of a puzzle for you to solve. I will sing a song in my inner hearing, and tap the rhythm of that song. See if you can guess the song. Keep the song a secret until I ask you to reveal what you think.”

Tap the rhythm of the song. “Don’t tell your answer but raise your hand if you think you know the song.”