



## Cultural Tapestry Arts Lesson: from the film “Dances With Wolves”



### “I Am Your Friend” Scene

Union Lieutenant Dunbar takes a new assignment on the Western frontier, where he comes into contact with the Sioux tribe and gradually comes to identify with them, falling in love with one of their women, hunting buffalo and ultimately becoming a full-blown member of the tribe. A traitor in the eyes of his own people, Dunbar ultimately must decide to whom his allegiance truly belongs.

**Notes:**

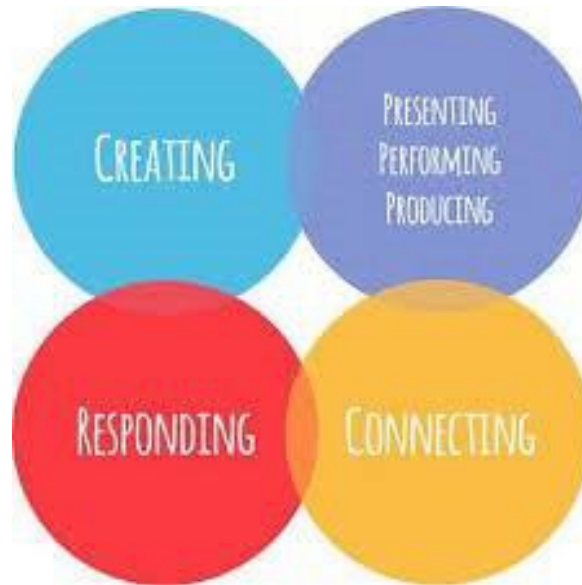
# Let's Explore

Spend some time reading the summary of the movie plot, and then watch the video clip.

- *What do you notice?*
  - *Who are the characters and why was the screenwriter/director inspired to feature them?*
  - *What do you learn about the characters?*
  - *Where might this be taking place, and when?*
  - *What makes these characters different or special?*
- *What do you wonder?*
  - *What is going on? What surrounds the characters?*
  - *What happened before the time of the scene, and what might come next?*
  - *Are there different ways to see the situation, or is it clear what is happening?*
  - *Have you ever seen someone or something like the scene? If you have, where did you see them or it?*
- *How does it make you feel?*
  - *If the scene depicts an action, would you ever do something similar?*
  - *Do you see yourself in the scene? In what way?*
  - *Do things or feelings in the scene remind you of anything?*
  - *Do the names of the characters affect how you feel about it?*

Write down your thoughts and share with family and friends...

# The Four Artistic Processes



## **RESPOND:** Explore and Understand

- What words and gestures have impact? Why do you think the director/actors chose them?
- What do you notice about the characters/actors facial expressions and body language?

## **CONNECT:** Relate to the artwork

- How does the scene make you feel? Why?
- If you could interview the director or one of the characters/actors what questions would you ask?

## **CREATE:** Make your own art

- Write a poem or short essay reflecting on the way the scene makes you feel, or a subject similar to that depicted in the scene.
- Draw or paint an artwork or take a photograph that has a subject similar to that depicted in the scene.
- Imagine you are the director who created the film. Write what they might say to describe their reason for creating this particular scene, from their point of view.

## **PRESENT:** Share your artwork

- Share your creation with family or friends.
- Take a moment to share what you have discovered in the process.