



Division of Educational Services
Instructional Services



Cultural Tapestry Arts Lesson: from the film “Harriet”



“I’ll Be Free Or Die” Scene

Based on the thrilling and inspirational life of an iconic American freedom fighter, HARRIET tells the extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes. Her courage, ingenuity, and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history.

Notes:

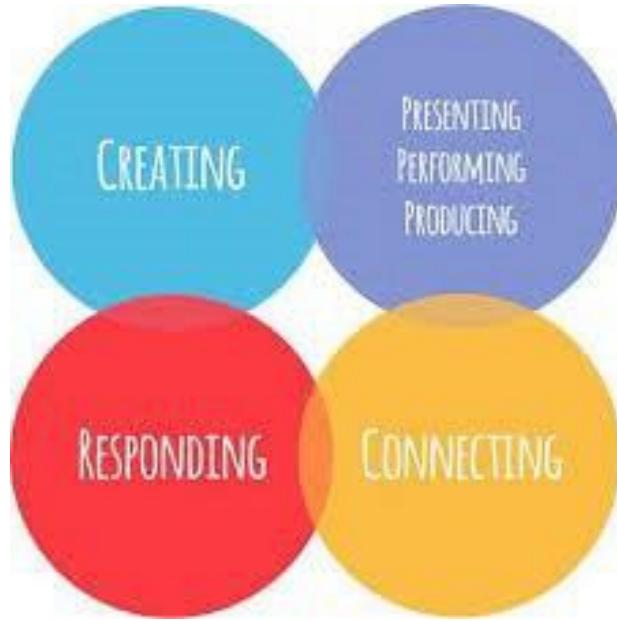
Let's Explore

Spend some time reading the summaries of the movie and the dance scene, and then watch the video clip.

- *What do you notice?*
 - *Who are the characters and why was the screenwriter/director inspired to feature them in this scene?*
 - *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?*
 - *Does what you know about the history of slavery in America 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 chose them?
- What do you notice about characters/actors body language and facial expressions in the scene?

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?
- What do you think the characters/actors are feeling? Do you feel an emotion in the scene, such as anxiety, tension, or fear?

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 filming the 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.