

CLASSROOM LEARNING LESSONS

Prepared for the Liyana 2009 USA Tour

Subject focus

Africa

Zimbabwe

Messaging Focus

Overcoming Obstacles

Disability/Ability

Grades 7 through 12

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OVERCOMING OBSTACLES: LESSONS FROM LIYANA

GRADES 7-12

1. Aim: Overcoming Obstacles.
2. Motivation: Why is it important to overcome obstacles?
The discourse will lead to the idea that you can do anything you set your mind to.
3. Objective: Familiarize students with motto (“never give up”) in order to prepare for Liyana.
4. Instructional Material: Teacher made handout
Overhead
5. Do-Now: .Have students pick a random spot in the classroom (under/ on top desks, corner, etc). Students must be spaced apart .
Give students a paperclip (or any other small object at hand). .
Explain to students that they now have to pass the object to every classmate.
If it is dropped, they must start over. And that this is to create an obstacle for them to overcome.
6. Activities: Part 1: .Students will be given a document on Zimbabwe Government (Student Handout 1). And answer questions: Describe any notable obstacles in the beginning of the document, Describe how certain obstacles were overcome, use specific details from document. (answers are open to interpretation) .
As class hold open discussion about their answers.
Part 2: .Introduce Liyana, biography: band from Zimbabwe, disabled (teacher handout 1)
Play a song off their website (www.liyanatour.com/band.cfm)
. As class make a list of what song COULD be about, relating to the theme “never give up”. EX: content with situation, struggle sometimes, hard work pays off, etc.
7. Conclusion:
Students had first-hand experience of working toward the goal of overcoming an obstacle.

Students learned about Zimbabwe government struggles and how they overcome their obstacles.

Students heard music from Zimbabwe as played by Liyana.

Teacher Handout 1 (derived from Liyanatour.com)

Overview

It was only a few years ago that Liyana was born - as a class project. Even with the challenge of working in teams, in barely an hour, Liyana had produced four great tunes. From the start they had a special knack for communicating musically through various subjects and musical styles, including gospel, reggae, and traditional Shona music.

These days, the band is fronted by Prudence Mabhena, a dynamic lead singer with a unique ability to communicate with audiences from all walks of life. Other members specialize in marimbas, African drums, shakers, keyboard, and piano. With lyrics in five different languages, Liyana's 'Afro-fusion' music is reflective of our interconnected world, where many find that our connections are greater than our divisions.

In 2006, LIYANA won the Crossroads Africa Inter-regional Music Festival in Mozambique and went on to tour Sweden, The Netherlands, and Belgium. In July, 2007 as featured performers at the Bulawayo Theatre, Liyana concluded with a new song Never Give Up, a title that is especially meaningful because it is the mantra learned at KGV School that inspires them to this day.

Liyana draws upon the talents of eight musicians, all born and raised in Zimbabwe. Liyana is the subject of a new [documentary](#), iTemba (My Hope). Directed by Roger Ross Williams, to be released, worldwide, late in 2009.

<http://liyanatour.com/band.cfm>

Name _____

Student Handout 1

Directions: Read the following document on Zimbabwe's history pertaining to self government and independence. Then answer the following questions.

Before World War I the white settlers had begun to demand self-government. These demands were renewed after the war, and in 1923 the British proclaimed Southern Rhodesia, as the country had become known, a self-governing British colony. From 1953 to 1963 it was a member of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. African nationalists, led notably by ①Joshua Nkomo, opposed the federation, but their movements were banned by the white government.

When the federation was dissolved in 1963, the white settlers pressed for independence, which the British government refused to grant without safeguards for ultimate African control. After two years of abortive negotiations, the white government, led by ①Ian D. Smith, declared independence on Nov. 11, 1965. Great Britain immediately imposed economic sanctions, and the UN later imposed a total embargo on trade with the country.

Rhodesia, however—which in 1970 declared itself a republic—was never recognized by Britain, or by any other nation, and negotiations with the British government continued. One settlement proposal, drawn up in November 1971, was abandoned the following May when a British commission found it “not acceptable to the people of Rhodesia as a whole.”

In the mid-1970s the dissolution of Portugal's empire in Africa left Rhodesia in an increasingly isolated position. Pressured by South Africa to take a more conciliatory stance, Smith then initiated talks with black leaders. Nkomo and other nationalists were released from detention in 1974, but negotiations during the next two years brought no accord. Guerrilla activities intensified. In late 1976 Nkomo and ①Robert Mugabe, both of whom lived in exile, formed the Patriotic Front, which in 1977–78 began a guerrilla campaign to overthrow the Smith regime.

Foreseeing his defeat, Prime Minister Smith in March 1978 signed an accord with three relatively moderate black leaders, headed by Bishop ①Abel Muzorewa, calling for universal suffrage and the establishment of black-majority rule, with safeguards for whites. In the 1979 elections, Bishop Muzorewa's party won 51 of the 100 parliamentary seats; another 28 were reserved for whites. Muzorewa formed a coalition government with Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front and took office as prime minister of the new state of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia (later shortened to Zimbabwe). Because his government was widely perceived as a black front for continued white rule, it failed to win popular support. A settlement was reached at a conference in London later in 1979, and Britain resumed control of the country. In the free elections in February 1980 Mugabe and his party, ZANU, won a landslide victory.

Independence for Zimbabwe came on April 17, 1980. Prime Minister Mugabe consolidated his power; in 1982 he dismissed Nkomo and accused him of plotting to overthrow the government. Mugabe's party won a landslide victory in 1985, the first national election since independence. In late 1987 ZANU and Nkomo's ZAPU agreed to merge as ZANU-PF, and Mugabe assumed the office of executive president; a year later, he appointed Nkomo a senior minister in his reshuffled cabinet. In the 1990 elections, Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party won decisively. After special constitutional provisions protecting white landowners expired, the government sought to redistribute much of their land to hundreds of thousands of black peasants in the early 1990s. Drought, inflation, high unemployment, and a heavy foreign debt all contributed to a stagnant economy at mid-decade. Low turnout marred the presidential election of March 1996, which was won by Mugabe after his opponents pulled out of the race. Rev. Canaan Banana (1936–2003), who preceded Mugabe as president (1980–87) of Zimbabwe, was convicted in November 1998 of illicit sexual activities while he held office.

After reading the information on Zimbabwe history, please answer these questions. Feel free to refer back to the reading if you cannot remember the answer.

1. Describe any notable obstacles in the beginning of the document.

2. Describe how certain obstacles were overcome, using specific details from the document

<http://www.history.com/encyclopedia.do?articleId=226445>

Name: _____

Liyana Powerpoint Project.

Directions: You should now have a brief understanding about Liyana. Now it's time for you to acquaint yourself more with the members of the band. Your teacher will assign you one member of Liyana to research. Slideshow should be informative as well as creative; and should include an introduction, band member, disability, how the disability has/might bring challenges to his or her life and career, and what overcoming their obstacle means to you. Facts on Zimbabwe are optional.

Resources

Mugabe: Power, Plunder, and the Struggle for Zimbabwe's Future
by Martin Meredith

Bitter Harvest: Zimbabwe and the Aftermath of its Independence by
Ian Smith

Explorer: Zimbabwe - Shona Mbira Music by Various Artists (**Audio
CD**)

**The Soul of Mbira: Music and Traditions of the Shona People of
Zimbabwe** by Paul F. Berliner