

Here M.I.: Engaging Multiple Intelligences through Song

Thomas Armstrong (adapting from Howard Gardner) *Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom* (Alexandria, VA: ASCD, 2009)

Questions for MI Lesson Planning (Armstrong 65): How might we:

- engage deep issues of meaning and value?
- strengthen a sense of community involvement?
- encourage personal feelings and reflections?
- use the spoken, written, **or sung** word?
- bring in numbers, logic, critical thinking?
- involve the body, give hands-on experience?
- use visual aids, visualization, color, art?
- incorporate nature, ecological awareness?

Existential intelligence: Sensitivity and capacity to tackle deep questions about human existence, such as the meaning of life, how did we get here, why do we suffer

- _____ People sometimes refer to me as a “deep thinker.”
_____ I enjoy reading philosophy and/or theology
_____ “Why” questions are more interesting to me than “how” questions.

Interpersonal intelligence explores relationships with people, understanding the motives and desires of others and how to work with them in common cause

- _____ I consider myself a leader (or others have called me that).
_____ I feel comfortable in the midst of a crowd.
_____ I like to get involved in social activities connected with my work, church, or community.

Intrapersonal intelligence involves the capacity to understand one’s own motives, fears, etc., and to use this information in directing one’s life

- _____ I would rather spend a weekend alone in the woods than at a resort with a lot of people around.
_____ I keep a personal diary or journal to record the events of my inner life.
_____ I prefer working solo to working in groups.

Musical intelligence (memory, mood, and meaning)

- _____ I can easily keep time to a piece of music with a simple percussion instrument.
_____ If I hear a musical selection once or twice, I am usually able to sing it back fairly accurately.
_____ I tend to hum or whistle when working.

Verbal intelligence (image, rhyme, rhetorical device)

- _____ I enjoy word games (Scrabble, crosswords), tongue twisters, and puns
_____ My conversation includes frequent references to things I've read or heard.
_____ In an argument I tend to use put-downs or sarcasm.

♪ God, the Sculptor (Thornburg) (ELW 736)

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Mathematic/Logical intelligence (numbers, structures, statistics)

- _____ I can easily compute numbers in my head.
- _____ I'm interested in new developments in science.
- _____ I enjoy games that involve strategy and reasoning (e.g. chess, Sudoku).

- ♪ The Play of the Godhead (Bringle)
- ♪ For the Troubles and the Sufferings (Neto trans. Monteiro and Lockward)

Kinesthetic intelligence (**movement, gesture, rhythm, tempo**)

- _____ My best ideas often come to me when I'm on a long walk or a jog, or engaged in some other kind of physical activity.
- _____ I frequently use hand gestures or other forms of body language when conversing.
- _____ I need to practice a new skill rather than simply reading or seeing a video about it.

- ♪ We Lift Our Voices (Liles) (ELW 692)
- ♪ The Right Hand of God (Prescod) (ELW 889)
- ♪ Faith Begins by Letting Go (Daw)
- ♪ Love the Lord Your God (Strathdee)
- ♪ Come to the Table of Grace (Hamm)

Visual/spatial intelligence (pictorial imagery, color, metaphor)

- _____ I enjoy photography, or doing jigsaw puzzles, mazes, and other visual puzzles.
- _____ I can generally find my way around unfamiliar territory.
- _____ I frequently doodle when I'm thinking or listening to someone else.

- ♪ Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud (Troeger)
- ♪ For Everyone Born (Murray)

Naturalist/typological intelligence

- _____ I enjoy outdoor activities, like hiking or walking in the woods.
- _____ I enjoy gardening or caring for wildlife (e.g. tending a birdfeeder).
- _____ I am good at classifying objects and sorting things into groups.

- ♪ Come, All You People (ELW 819)
- ♪ Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726)



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. (Col. 3:16)

