

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

Becoming Bach

Written and Illustrated by Tom Leonard

40 pages / K-3

An introduction to one of the world's greatest composers, through his life as a boy and the way he saw music. A lyrical connection to math and color, this book provides us a visual representation of music and the notion that some people are simply drawn to their passion, without even realizing it.



C

Context

Patterns!

As a boy, Bach sees patterns everywhere.

Students will see patterns through his eyes and then branch out finding their own, particularly as they become stronger observers and truly look around them.

Attaching **feelings and words** to what we often may not, such as music. An access point to building a **vocabulary** and word bank of **adjectives**.

A

Arts

The connections between **music** and **colors**. Play music for students and ask them to see it as well as hear it. What colors do they attach to it?

Power of color: Can students attach colors to patterns and feelings as often done in the illustration? What is their reasoning for their choices?

Classical music as a genre. Play Bach in the classroom throughout the day, drawing attention to patterns they notice in the music, the instruments they hear, the colors they see.

T

Themes

Patterns are everywhere

Finding your path in life

Listening to your heart and inner voice

C

Create

Use the last page as an inspiration, ask students what it means to "become a (their last name)" This could launch a family study, a creative or narrative writing piece.

All music, as Bach mentions, is comprised of just seven notes. Have students collect 7 items and see what they can create with it. How many different things can they create with the same 7 tools? Is your creation something you can communicate with as Bach did through his music?

H

Heart Words

"There was always music."

"I needed to say things but words weren't enough."

