

Objective

- Introduction to the life of Charlie Parker through student reading and listening example

Materials

- **PowerPoint:** Lesson 11 - *Charlie Parker* page 33
- **JAZZ CLUB Listening Example:** *Celebrity* page 34
- **Student Worksheet:** Lesson 11 - *Lesson and Listening Assessments* page 35

I. PowerPoint Charlie Parker

1. Show the students PowerPoint Lesson 11 and have students take turns reading the slides.
2. Have students complete the Lesson ASSESSMENT individually or as a class.

Charlie Parker was one of the most **imitated** jazz musicians. He was born in 1920 in Kansas City, Missouri. Charlie got the nickname Bird because of his huge appetite for chicken. Charlie studied clarinet and saxophone as a boy. He spent hour after hour listening to the local jazz musicians jamming together. When Parker was only fifteen he became a full time musician, playing the same blues based jazz that Count Basie and Lester Young learned in Kansas City.

Bird moved to New York City in 1940 where he met Dizzy Gillespie. Together, along with pianist Thelonius Monk, they created bebop. The bebop style Bird helped create at jam sessions at a club called Minton’s, went unnoticed outside of the New York City area. A strike by the Musicians Union that stopped all recording kept the rest of the world from hearing the bebop style. No recordings were released until 1945.

Bird was perhaps the greatest of all jazz improvisers. He could make the incredibly fast tempos, complex harmonies and unusual scales sound easy. Many jazz musicians have **imitated** Bird’s jazz style. Unfortunately, though Bird was one of the greatest musicians of all time, his lifestyle was one of the worst of all time. Parker’s addictions to drugs and alcohol caused his death in 1955 at the age of 35.

ANSWER KEY Student Reading Lesson ASSESSMENT

1. When and where was Charlie Parker born? *(1920 in Kansas City, Missouri)*
2. Parker’s style was _____ by many jazz musicians.
A. disliked B. imitated C. ignored *(B. Imitated)*
3. What was Parker’s nickname and how did he get the name?
(Bird - because of his big appetite for chicken)
4. Describe the bebop melodies Parker composed. *(Sounded like bebop solos)*
5. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true?
A. Bird was perhaps the greatest of all jazz improvisers.
B. Bird’s style has been imitated by almost every jazz musician.
C. Bird lived a healthy lifestyle. *(C. Bird lived a healthy lifestyle.)*
6. How old was Charlie Parker when he died? *(35 years old)*

II. JAZZ CLUB Listening Example

Title: "Celebrity"

Composer: Charlie Parker

Performer: Charlie Parker's Re-Boppers

available on: Charlie Parker *The Complete Savoy and Dial Studio Sessions* (Sony CK 92911) *Scrapple from the Apple*

YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEibWy5miBk [1:35 Process/Assessment below]

iTunes Ken Burns "Jazz" CD 3 track 12 *Scrapple from the Apple*

[Process/Assessment available at www.theJazzCatsBooks.com]

Suggested YouTube Search Celebrity, Charlie Parker [1st video - other choices: 3, 4, 6]

SUGGESTED TEACHING PROCESS JAZZ CLUB Listening Example

1. Explain that the piece is bebop jazz and discuss the instrumentation

Woodwind section: saxophone - Charlie Parker

Rhythm section: piano, bass and drum set - Buddy Rich

2. Review tempo and meter (conduct examples - include prestissimo).
3. Explain that this is an excellent example of a melody that sounds like a bebop solo. The saxophone melody at the beginning of the song sounds similar to the saxophone solo after the drum solo.
4. Instruct students to listen for the instrument(s), tempo, meter, mood, style and which instruments improvise a jazz solo.
5. Play recording while conducting a prestissimo tempo with a 4/4 meter.
Video locations: 0:05 drum Introduction, 0:09 A section, 0:23 B section, 0:30 A section, 0:37 drum solo, 1:03 sax solo
6. Have students complete the Listening ASSESSMENT individually or as a class.

ANSWER KEY JAZZ CLUB Listening ASSESSMENT

1. Identify the instruments you hear.
(Saxophone - Charlie Parker, piano, bass and drum set - Buddy Rich)
2. Describe the tempo and the meter. *(Prestissimo [Extremely fast], 4/4)*
3. Describe the melody. *(Sounds like a bebop solo)*
4. Which instruments improvised a jazz solo? *(drum set, saxophone)*
5. Describe the mood of the song. *(Happy, exciting, etc.)*
6. Name the style of this piece. *(Bebop)*

Related Activity Jazz Cats Recorder Songbook

CAT WALK Pages 26-27

- Recorder/vocal song E G A B^b
- R & B jazz style
- *Performance and Accompaniment* CD tracks

