



Listening & Drawing Activity

Aaron Copland was very skilled at evoking images with his music! Many of his songs convey specific emotions, places, or people. When I made the illustrations for *Copland: A Story About America*, I used lots of color and collage techniques to help readers understand the music.

Try the listening activity below to introduce the idea of visual metaphors to your students.

Supplies needed:

- Paper
- Art materials such as colored pencils, paint, or crayons

Directions:

1. Listen to pieces of Copland's music (see URL below for a kid-centered list!)
2. Ask your students: What are you thinking about when you hear the music? What colors do you imagine? Are they warm colors or cool colors? Does the song remind you of a place you have been to or read about? Does the song tell a story? Do you imagine any specific people or animals when you hear the song?
3. Draw! Using whatever materials you have available, draw and paint freely as you listen to the suggested songs.
4. Share! Encourage students to share their art with others.



Playlist Links:

Spotify:
bit.ly/4tLD48Q



Youtube:
bit.ly/4cxM7mS



COPLAND:
A Story About America
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More at [veronicamang.com](https://www.veronicamang.com)