

education

ROUNDAABOUTTHEATRECOMPANY

Name: _____

Date: _____

How do the lyrics of a song inspire the book of a musical?

Book: The book is the words in a musical that are not sung. These include the character's lines and stage directions.

Process: The steps taken to complete a task, or goal.

Lyrics: The lyrics are the words of a song.

1.) Choose a partner in the class.

2.) In the musical *Sunday in the Park with George*, Stephen Sondheim used the painting "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte" by Georges Seurat as inspiration to create a story about an artist, George. In the play, George struggles with his devotion to creating paintings that have meaning and heart as well as balancing his relationship with his girlfriend, Dot.

With your partner, read the lyrics to the song "We Do Not Belong Together" below and think about what each character wants and feels.

"We Do Not Belong Together" from *Sunday in the Park with George*

Dot:

Yes, George, run to your work.

Hide behind your painting.

I have come to tell you I am leaving because I thought you might care to know-foolish of me, because you care about nothing-

George

I care about many things-

Dot

Things-not people.

George

People, too. I cannot divide my feelings up as neatly as you, and I am not hiding behind my canvas-I am living in it.

Dot

What you care for is yourself.

George

I care for this painting. You will be in this painting.

Dot

I am something you can use.

George

I had thought you understood.

Dot

It's because I understand that I left,
That I am leaving.

George

Then there's nothing I can say,
Is there?

Dot

Yes. George, there is:
You could tell me not to go.
Say it to me.
Tell me not to go.
Tell me that you're hurt,
Tell me you're relieved,
Tell me that you're bored-
Anything, but don't assume I know.
Tell me what you feel!

George

What I feel?
You know exactly how I feel.
Why do you insist
You must hear the words,
When you know I cannot give you words?
Not the ones you need.
There's nothing to say.
I cannot be what you want.

Dot

What do you want, George?

George

I needed you and you left.

Dot

There was no room for me-

George

You will not accept who I am.

I am what I do-

Which you knew,

Which you always knew,

Which I thought you were a part of!

Dot

No,

You are complete, George,

You are your own.

We do not belong together.

You are complete, George,

You all alone.

I am unfinished,

I am diminished

With or without you.

We do not belong together,

And we should have belonged together.

What made it so right together

Is what made it all wrong.

No one is you, George.

There you agree,

But others will do, George.

No one is you and

No one can be,

But no one is me, George,

No one is me.

We do not belong together.

And we'll never belong-!

You have a mission,

A mission to see.

Now I have one too, George.

And we should have belonged together.

I have to move on.

3.) Based upon the lyrics from the song above, write three (3) things that **Dot** wants and feels in the box below

| Wants | Feels |
|-------|-------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2 |
| 3. | 3. |

4.) Based upon the lyrics from the song above, write three (3) things that **George** wants and feels in the box below

| Wants | Feels |
|-------|-------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2 |
| 3. | 3. |

5.) What is the mood of the scene?

6.) What do we know about these characters from the lyrics?

7.) Imagine these two characters are talking to each other. What would they say to each other that sets up and leads into the song "We Do Not Belong together?" Write a section of the book to the musical *Sunday in the Park with George* that leads into the song "We Do Not Belong Together." Each character must say a minimum of 8 lines:

George: _____

Dot: _____

George: _____

Dot: _____

George: _____

Dot: _____

George: _____

Dot: _____

George: _____

Dot: _____

George: _____

Dot: _____

George: _____

Dot: _____

George: _____

Dot: _____

8.) With your partner, take time to rehearse this scene and perform in front of the class.

9.) How does the experience of writing the book to a musical differ from that of writing the lyrics to a musical?
