



K-2 | Lesson 19



LESSON 19

TEXT TITLE

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis: Wes Montgomery

TEXT MAIN IDEA

Wes Montgomery was a musical pioneer who developed a unique style of playing the guitar that changed the way it was played for years to come. His style of playing without a pick would change the sound of his music, making him one of the most influential jazz guitarists. He is remembered today as someone who was taken too soon and revered for his influence many years after his death.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

The unit essential questions developed through this lesson are...

- How did musicians contribute to building a stronger community?

CONTENT OBJECTIVE

By engaging in this lesson, students will know/understand that...

- Key features of a biographies contain:
 - Subheadings/headings;
 - Facts about the person/important life events;
 - Timelines and diagrams;
 - Pictures with illustrations; and
 - Areas of achievements.
- Biographies are a type of informational text that focuses on one person and details facts about their lives.

LITERACY OBJECTIVE

By engaging in this lesson, students will strengthen their ability to...

- Identify the main idea of a multi-paragraph text and the topic of each paragraph. Additionally, given that we are studying a biography, there is an opportunity to develop the skill of describing connections between life events and a figure's life.

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

- Include think-alouds, prompts, and questions (oral and written) that focus on determining text and text segments' main ideas. (2.RN.2.2)
- Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, and steps in a process or procedure in a text. (2.RN.2.3)

LAUNCH (5 MINUTES)

Today we are going to learn more about Wes Montgomery by reading a text about him.

Before we get started reading, we will have a discussion about how to read a biography. When reading a biography, there are going to be some key text features to be looking for:

- Subheadings/headings;
- Facts about the person/important life events;
- Timelines and diagrams;
- Pictures with illustrations;
- Areas of achievements; and
- Chronological order.

Not all biographies are going to have all of these items but they are going to have some of them. While we are reading, your job is to notice when we see these text features in our reading today.

READ ALOUD / ENGAGE (15 MINUTES)

Preview the text.

Alright scholars! Here we have our text. I am giving it a once over and knowing that this is all about Wes Montgomery and giving me facts about him, this is an informational (non-fiction) text. I see a really big heading at the top that says John Leslie (Wes) Montgomery. Hmmmm, I thought we were learning about Wes Montgomery? Not John Leslie Montgomery? Well I know that sometimes our families can give us middle names and sometimes families can even give us nicknames. I have a nickname that was given to me at birth that my family STILL calls me even in my old age. So I am wondering if Wes is a nickname or a “go by” name that he uses. Okay, let’s get started reading.

Read the first two paragraphs.

Based on the first couple of paragraphs and the title, what is the topic of this text?

Exemplar Scholar Responses:

- Based on the title and the first couple of paragraphs, this text is about Wes Montgomery and his music career. It gives facts about his albums and how his music career took off.

Read the third and fourth paragraphs.

What are some facts we learned about the overall topic?

Finish reading the rest of the text.

I am really excited about this documentary that is going to be coming out soon! I know the Indiana Historical Society has an exhibit that highlights some awesome Hoosiers including Wes' brother, Buddy. This documentary is going to be great because Wes Montgomery seemed like an awesome musician and person.

DISCUSS (10 MINUTES)

How is Wes Montgomery remembered today?

Exemplar Scholar Response:

Wes Montgomery is remembered today through the jazz community. There used to be an annual Wes Montgomery Jazz Fest before it was discontinued, but there are still jazz festivals that take place in Indianapolis that honor Wes Montgomery as a jazz great and “tributes” to him are often performed during this time. There is an Indianapolis park named in his honor. There is also a documentary that is in the process of being made about his life.

WRITE (10 MINUTES)

Write a small biography about Wes Montgomery based on what we have learned.

***Note:** For young scholars who are still developing writing skills, an alternate assignment could be drawing a picture that depicts Wes Montgomery and a sentence to accompany the picture.

Exemplar Scholar Response:

Wes Montgomery was born March 6, 1923. He is mostly known for being a jazz great and changing the way people would play the guitar for years to come. He played the guitar without a pick, which became known as “thumbing” and is widely used today. When he first started his music career, he worked with Lionel Hampton's Big Band in 1948. After two years playing with the band, Wes moved back to Indianapolis and started playing and making a name for himself on Indiana Avenue. That is when he started playing with his brothers. They formed the group The Wes Montgomery Trio. He won many accolades, including a Grammy for their album “Goin’ out of my Head” in 1965. He was involved in jazz until his death in 1968. Wes Montgomery is still recognized today as one of the most influential jazz players of all time.



EXIT TICKET

1. What would be a good heading for paragraph 1?

- a. All about Music
- b. Who is Wes Montgomery?
- c. Indiana Avenue
- d. Playing the Guitar

2. Which statement summarizes the main idea of the text?

- a. Wes Montgomery was a jazz musician.
- b. Wes Montgomery was a music lover and made his mark on the jazz genre at the young age of 19 years old.
- c. Wes Montgomery played with his brothers.
- d. Wes Montgomery came from a music loving family.