

TEACHER'S TOOL KIT

History • English Language Arts • Visual Arts • Music

ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 9-12



Reba

ALL THE WOMEN I AM



LIMITED-RUN EXHIBITION, AUGUST 2013-JUNE 2014

Reba: All the Women I Am examines the life of Reba McEntire, a hard-working recording artist, actress, and business woman who rose to stardom from humble Oklahoma roots. Use the following biography and tools to create lessons before or after a visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum or as a creative way to connect Reba's music and story to the classroom.

Exhibit support provided by:



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Reba

ALL THE WOMEN I AM

Begin by asking your students what they know about Reba McEntire. Once students have shared, read Reba's biography (see back page) to the class or pass out copies for the students to read themselves. Then, select the activities that best correspond to your subject area.



Western jacket worn by Reba in *Annie Get Your Gun*.

HISTORY

- **History:** Research Reba's biography, including her major movie roles, hit songs, and personal milestones. Write a one-page résumé for Reba highlighting accomplishments that you feel are important.
- **Economics:** Research the ways in which technology has had an impact on the financial prosperity of the music business. How do artists sell their product?
- **History:** How is Reba a product of the 1950s and 1960s? What historical themes and key events are woven throughout her history?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- **Writing (Persuasive):** Create a magazine cover for Reba using headlines that represent her awards and honors, such as CMA Female Vocalist of the Year, member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, etc. Headlines should be no longer than fifteen words and should persuade the reader to read more.
- **Writing (Argument):** Take a position on the following issue and write an argumentative essay: Of the 121 inductees to the Country Music Hall of Fame, only sixteen are women and two are groups containing women. Is this an example of gender inequality? Why or why not?



Dolly Parton inducted Reba into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

VISUAL ART

- Listen to the song “For My Broken Heart” (*For My Broken Heart*, 1991) and create artwork based on how the song made you feel. Use color to emphasize the feelings and emotions in the song.
- Look at various outfits that Reba has worn on award shows, in performances, etc. Sketch on paper a performance outfit, an award show outfit, and an everyday outfit that fits your perception of her current style.
- Make a collage of pictures and images that represents Reba’s life, including both challenges and successes.



Cover of Reba's 1991 album *For My Broken Heart*.



Reba in concert, 2010.

MUSIC

- **Analysis:** Choose a song recorded by Reba. Identify a theme and make a playlist from your own music library of songs that speak to the same theme. Be prepared to explain your choices.
- **Composition:** Listen to the song “I’m a Survivor” (*Greatest Hits Vol. 3: I’m a Survivor*, 2001) and create your own poem or song about an obstacle that you’ve overcome.
- **Composition:** Write your own song based on Reba’s musical style. Compose your own music and lyrics.
- **Reading Music:** Analyze one of Reba’s songs. Describe the form, melody, rhythm, and meter
- **Performance:** Learn to play one of Reba’s songs proficiently and perform for your classmates.

BIOGRAPHY



Reba McEntire was born in 1955 in Kiowa, Oklahoma. By the time she was six, Reba was waking before dawn to help gather the 3,000 cattle on her family's ranch. As Reba grew older, she participated in more than fifty rodeos each year, and was actively involved in track and field and basketball at her school. Reba sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the 1974 National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City, where she met Red Steagall. He took her tape back to Nashville, and a year later she was signed to Mercury Records.

Reba's career didn't take off right away. Her first Top Ten hit came four years after she joined Mercury. In 1984, Reba switched to MCA Records, and her fortunes skyrocketed. She released two albums that year, *Just a Little Love* and *My Kind of Country*. She also received her first major award, Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year.

Reba quickly became one of the era's most popular country artists, and she continued to explore new styles and themes. She developed a pop-influenced sound with her album *Rumor Has It* (1990). *For My Broken Heart* (1991) was Reba's musical response to the tragic loss of eight band members and crew, who were killed in a plane crash returning from one of her concerts. With these two albums, Reba began her most successful decade as a record maker.

In 1988, Reba formed Starstruck Entertainment with her manager, Narvel Blackstock. He would go on to become her husband. Starstruck currently includes artist management, a state-of-the-art recording studio, and a music publishing company.

Reba also expanded her career to the stage and screen. She co-starred in several TV movies, including *The Gambler Returns: The Luck of the Draw*, and she had leading roles in TV movies such as *Is There Life Out There?*, *Buffalo Girls*, *Forever Love*, and *Secret of Giving*. In 2001, Reba conquered Broadway, starring as Annie Oakley in a revival of *Annie Get Your Gun*. Her work was praised widely by critics and fans alike. She also starred in the popular TV sitcom *Reba* and, more recently, in the comedy series *Malibu Country*.

In the early twenty-first century, Reba began receiving the kind of lifetime honors reserved for the most significant and influential American artists. She was named *Billboard's* Woman of the Year in 2007 and won the ASCAP Golden Note Award in 2008. In 2011, Reba was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Despite her many successes, Reba continues to be a driven, hard-working artist and business woman.

The Encyclopedia of Country Music, Second Edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.



The museum's educational programs are supported by



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