

the ARTICLE (for instructors)

Danny Boy Banned

On March 17th of each year, every person enjoys honorary Irish heritage for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and from north to south and east to west across the globe, in New York City and Buenos Aires and Tokyo, people watch parades, imbibe green beer, and tuck into a plate of corned beef and cabbage. The lead up to the festivities throughout the month sees a spike in all things Irish, too, especially Guinness purchases and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has nixed one thing particularly Irish for the whole of March, regardless of the holiday - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy," ranked as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time, seems far more appropriate for a funeral than a holiday celebration. It symbolizes the exodus in the 1800s, when Irish fled starvation and bleak economic conditions for more optimistic opportunities elsewhere. A number of other Irish songs offer similarly depressing fare, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." The song relates the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

The bar owner griped that the song simply gets far too much playtime during the month, and he was frankly sick of it. In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day karaoke party would receive a Guinness on the house for singing any traditional Irish song but "Danny Boy."

Although some patrons are pleased with the decision, others consider it tantamount to blasphemy. A fair comparison would be the banning of "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" during December - something that just isn't done.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

WARM-UPS

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

- 1. Define:** What does "St. Patrick's Day" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?
- 2. Brainstorm:** Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "St. Patrick's Day" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.
- 3. Title:** Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "Danny Boy Banned."

4. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

a.	St. Patrick's Day is one of my favorite holidays.
b.	I want to drink green beer and sing Irish songs on St. Patrick's Day.
c.	It's okay if a bar wants to ban St. Patrick's Day celebrations.
d.	It's okay if a bar wants to ban certain songs on St. Patrick's Day.
e.	It's okay if a bar wants to ban certain customers on St. Patrick's Day.

5. Rank It!: Which do you want to do on St. Patrick's Day? Rank the choices in order, and support your decisions!

a.	drink green beer
b.	join a parade
c.	sing Irish songs
d.	eat corned beef and cabbage
e.	wear green clothes

VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

1. **Vocabulary match:** Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	imbibe	q.	grim
b.	nix	r.	complain
c.	exodus	s.	same
d.	bleak	t.	veto
e.	optimistic	u.	offering
f.	fare	v.	positive
g.	gripe	w.	free
h.	frank	x.	honest
i.	on the house	y.	drink
j.	tantamount	z.	departure

2. **Fill in the Blanks:** Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	fare	imbibe	optimistic	tantamount	on the house
	exodus	frankly	nixed	griped	bleak
a.	People watch parades and () green beer on St. Patrick's Day.				
b.	The owner has () one thing particularly Irish for the whole of March - the song "Danny Boy."				
c.	The song symbolizes the () in the 1800s.				
d.	The Irish fled starvation and () economic conditions.				
e.	They left Ireland for more () opportunities elsewhere.				
f.	A number of other Irish songs offer similarly depressing (), such as "Cockles and Mussels."				
g.	The bar owner () that "Danny Boy" simply gets far too much playtime during the month.				
h.	He was () sick of the song.				
i.	Participants would receive a Guinness () for singing any traditional Irish song but "Danny Boy."				
j.	Although some patrons are pleased with the decision, others consider it () to blasphemy.				

3. **Define:** Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

a.	imbibe	c.	exodus	e.	optimistic	g.	gripe	i.	on the house
b.	nix	d.	bleak	f.	fare	h.	frank	j.	tantamount

pre- or post-COMPREHENSION

1. **Word Association:** Brainstorm words associated with today's topic for two minutes. Present to the class.

2. **Brainstorm Questions:** Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer the questions without looking at the article.

3. **True or False?:** Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

a.	According to the article, everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day.	T / F
b.	"Danny Boy" is ranked as the most depressing song of all time.	T / F
c.	"Danny Boy" is about a fishmonger who dies of fever.	T / F
d.	The owner of the bar thinks the song gets played too much in March.	T / F
e.	Most people are upset about the bar owner's decision.	T / F

4. **Questions:** Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	What does the article say about St. Patrick's Day?
b.	What happened at a bar in Manhattan?
c.	What is the song about?
d.	What must patrons do to receive a free Guinness at the karaoke party?
e.	How do some patrons feel about the ban?

5. **Vocabulary:** In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	imbibe	c.	exodus	e.	optimistic	g.	griped	i.	on the house
b.	nixed	d.	bleak	f.	fare	h.	frankly	j.	tantamount

6. **Fragments:** Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence from today's article.

a.	On March 17th of each year...
b.	But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has nixed one thing...
c.	It symbolizes the exodus in the 1800s, when Irish...
d.	The bar owner griped that the song...
e.	A fair comparison would be the banning of...

post-COMPREHENSION

1. Vocabulary: Circle any additional unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the meanings. Present to the class.

2. Class Questions: Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to discuss in pairs/groups or as a class. Discuss.

3. Summarize: Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

4. Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
c.	Is it fair that the bar owner has banned "Danny Boy?" Why/not?
d.	What do you think would happen if someone started to sing "Danny Boy" at the bar in Manhattan?
e.	Do you think it's illegal to ban the song from the bar? Why/not?
f.	Are there any songs you particularly hate? Would you consider banning those songs? Why/not?
g.	What else would you ban besides a particular song? Why would you ban it?
h.	What do you usually do for St. Patrick's Day?
i.	What will you do for St. Patrick's Day this year?
j.	Are any holidays in your country associated with a particular song? If yes, please explain.

5. Discuss: You have the power to ban anything for a day all across the world. What would you ban? Discuss with a partner and decide on five things together. Share your answers with another pair of students or with the class.

#1:
#2:
#3:
#4:
#5:

6. Google Search: Type "St. Patrick's Day" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

Danny Boy Banned

On March 17th of each year, every person enjoys honorary Irish heritage for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and from north to south and east to west across the globe, in New York City and Buenos Aires and Tokyo, people watch parades, imbibe green beer, and tuck into a plate of corned beef and cabbage. The lead up to the festivities throughout the month sees a spike in all things Irish, too, especially Guinness purchases and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has nixed one thing particularly Irish for the whole of March, regardless of the holiday - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy," ranked as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time, seems far more appropriate for a funeral than a holiday celebration. It symbolizes the exodus in the 1800s, when Irish fled starvation and bleak economic conditions for more optimistic opportunities elsewhere. A number of other Irish songs offer similarly depressing fare, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." The song relates the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

The bar owner griped that the song simply gets far too much playtime during the month, and he was frankly sick of it. In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day karaoke party would receive a Guinness on the house for singing any traditional Irish song but "Danny Boy."

Although some patrons are pleased with the decision, others consider it tantamount to blasphemy. A fair comparison would be the banning of "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" during December - something that just isn't done.

Notes:

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

griped	bleak	honorary	depressing	tantamount
patrons	fare	frankly	nixed	relates
imbibe	on the house	spike	optimistic	exodus

Danny Boy Banned

On March 17th of each year, every person enjoys (a. _____) Irish heritage for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and from north to south and east to west across the globe, in New York City and Buenos Aires and Tokyo, people watch parades, (b. _____) green beer, and tuck into a plate of corned beef and cabbage. The lead up to the festivities throughout the month sees a (c. _____) in all things Irish, too, especially Guinness purchases and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has (d. _____) one thing particularly Irish for the whole of March, regardless of the holiday - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy," ranked as one of the twenty-five most (e. _____) tunes of all time, seems far more appropriate for a funeral than a holiday celebration. It symbolizes the (f. _____) in the 1800s, when Irish fled starvation and (g. _____) economic conditions for more (h. _____) opportunities elsewhere. A number of other Irish songs offer similarly depressing (i. _____), though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." The song (j. _____) the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

The bar owner (k. _____) that the song simply gets far too much playtime during the month, and he was (l. _____) sick of it. In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day karaoke party would receive a Guinness (m. _____) for singing any traditional Irish song but "Danny Boy."

Although some (n. _____) are pleased with the decision, others consider it (o. _____) to blasphemy. A fair comparison would be the banning of "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" during December - something that just isn't done.

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

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_____, too, especially Guinness purchases and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has nixed one thing particularly Irish for the whole of March, regardless of the holiday - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy," ranked as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time, seems far more appropriate for a funeral than a holiday celebration. It symbolizes the exodus in the 1800s, b) _____

_____. A number of other Irish songs offer similarly depressing fare, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." c) _____. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

d) _____, and he was frankly sick of it. In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day karaoke party would receive a Guinness on the house for singing any traditional Irish song but "Danny Boy."

e) _____, others consider it tantamount to blasphemy. A fair comparison would be the banning of "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" during December - something that just isn't done.

STUDENT HANDOUT (activities)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

a.	y	f.	u
b.	t	g.	r
c.	x	h.	x
d.	q	i.	w
e.	v	j.	s

2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	imbibe	f.	fare
b.	nixed	g.	griped
c.	exodus	h.	frankly
d.	bleak	i.	on the house
e.	optimistic	j.	tantamount

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

a.	T
b.	F
c.	F
d.	T
e.	F

2. Fragments:

a.	every person enjoys honorary Irish heritage for a day.
b.	particularly Irish for the whole of March, regardless of the holiday - the song "Danny Boy."
c.	fled starvation and bleak economic conditions for more optimistic opportunities elsewhere.
d.	simply gets far too much playtime during the month, and he was frankly sick of it.
e.	"Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" during December - something that just isn't done.

Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	honorary	i.	fare
b.	imbibe	j.	relates
c.	spike	k.	griped
d.	nixed	l.	frankly
e.	depressing	m.	on the house
f.	exodus	n.	patrons
g.	bleak	o.	tantamount
h.	optimistic		

2. Extended Listening

a.	The lead up to the festivities throughout the month sees a spike in all things Irish
b.	when Irish fled starvation and bleak economic conditions for more optimistic opportunities elsewhere
c.	The song relates the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever
d.	The bar owner griped that the song simply gets far too much playtime during the month
e.	Although some patrons are pleased with the decision