

the ARTICLE (for instructors)

Danny Boy Banned

On March 17th of each year, every person becomes Irish for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and all across the globe, from New York City to Buenos Aires to Tokyo, people watch parades, drink green beer, and eat corned beef and cabbage. The month of March sees a spike in all things Irish, especially purchases of Guinness and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has banned one thing particularly Irish for the whole month - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy" is ranked as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time. It seems much more appropriate for a funeral rather than a holiday celebration. The song symbolizes a time when many Irish fled hunger and grim economic conditions for more optimistic opportunities in America, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere. Many other Irish songs are similarly depressing, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." That 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 gets played too much 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 free Guinness for singing any traditional Irish song except "Danny Boy."

Although some patrons are pleased with the decision, others consider it a break with tradition. It would be akin to a December without "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

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.	spike	q.	forbid
b.	ban	r.	complain
c.	rank	s.	represent
d.	symbolize	t.	positive
e.	grim	u.	customer
f.	optimistic	v.	increase
g.	gripe	w.	honest
h.	frank	x.	similar
i.	patron	y.	classify
j.	akin	z.	hopeless

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

	banned	frankly	ranked	optimistic	patrons
	griped	grim	akin	spike	symbolizes
a.	The month of March sees a () in all things Irish, especially purchases of Guinness and Irish songs.				
b.	The owner has () one thing particularly Irish for the whole month - the song "Danny Boy."				
c.	"Danny Boy" is () as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time.				
d.	The song () a time when many Irish fled hunger.				
e.	They fled () economic conditions, too.				
f.	They looked for more () opportunities in America, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere.				
g.	The bar owner () that the song gets played too much during the month.				
h.	He was () sick of "Danny Boy."				
i.	Although some () are pleased with the decision, others consider it a break with tradition.				
j.	It would be () to a December without "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."				

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

a.	spike	c.	rank	e.	grim	g.	gripe	i.	patron
b.	ban	d.	symbolize	f.	optimistic	h.	frankly	j.	akin

WORD RECOGNITION

1. **Word Search:** Find the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

banned	frankly	ranked	optimistic	patrons
griped	grim	akin	spike	symbolizes
M E T E P Q M Y W S O K C H B S D S K E F J M E Z P X I G H J Y E N E G Q Z O X T W T X V A C M N S G I F E A I I S O J A P G B N L R X G D M H I D K K E G L O A L I E O I F M M O I T D B N L B P M L S P I K E N T M K H B I M S J M G T D J W Y L V A R O C W F D H P A H S Y A N G C E G S H E B O U A B X D V N W Q J V I K L T P R P A T R O N I Z E O N A C N J W V O S N O R T A P A S P O W N I M F M N Q S K W R R S G C V Y X L Z W Y C I M Q V W X L				

2. **Target Word Pool:** Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

banned	frankly	ranked	optimistic	patrons
griped	grim	akin	spike	symbolizes
fancily akimbo spanked grins symbolizing banning groped optimistic frankness optimistically partition rung spiked band ring grimace banishment grape alarm patrons gripes kin patronize patron grinning symbolizes optometrist spiking grim frankincense spoke frankly rankled ranking symbol alack grime optimist optimism spike banned patrician griped symbolic griping ranked burned akin frank sensationalize				

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.	spike	c.	ranked	e.	grim	g.	griped	i.	patrons
b.	banned	d.	symbolizes	f.	optimistic	h.	frankly	j.	akin

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

a.	On March 17th of each year...
b.	The month of March sees a spike in all things Irish, especially...
c.	It seems much more appropriate for a...
d.	In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day karaoke party would receive...
e.	It would be akin to...

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 becomes Irish for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and all across the globe, from New York City to Buenos Aires to Tokyo, people watch parades, drink green beer, and eat corned beef and cabbage. The month of March sees a spike in all things Irish, especially purchases of Guinness and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has banned one thing particularly Irish for the whole month - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy" is ranked as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time. It seems much more appropriate for a funeral rather than a holiday celebration. The song symbolizes a time when many Irish fled hunger and grim economic conditions for more optimistic opportunities in America, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere. Many other Irish songs are similarly depressing, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." That 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 gets played too much 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 free Guinness for singing any traditional Irish song except "Danny Boy."

Although some patrons are pleased with the decision, others consider it a break with tradition. It would be akin to a December without "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Notes:

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

griped	ranked	without	akin	especially
optimistic	globe	patrons	banned	frankly
spike	traditional	grim	karaoke	symbolizes

Danny Boy Banned

On March 17th of each year, every person becomes Irish for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and all across the (a. _____), from New York City to Buenos Aires to Tokyo, people watch parades, drink green beer, and eat corned beef and cabbage. The month of March sees a (b. _____) in all things Irish, (c. _____) purchases of Guinness and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has (d. _____) one thing particularly Irish for the whole month - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy" is (e. _____) as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time. It seems much more appropriate for a funeral rather than a holiday celebration. The song (f. _____) a time when many Irish fled hunger and (g. _____) economic conditions for more (h. _____) opportunities in America, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere. Many other Irish songs are similarly depressing, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." That song relates the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

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

Although some (m. _____) are pleased with the decision, others consider it a break with tradition. It would be (n. _____) to a December (o. _____) "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

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

Danny Boy Banned

a) _____ . It's St. Patrick's Day, and all across the globe, from New York City to Buenos Aires to Tokyo, people watch parades, drink green beer, and eat corned beef and cabbage. The month of March sees a spike in all things Irish, especially purchases of Guinness and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has banned one thing particularly Irish for the whole month - the song "Danny Boy."

b) _____ . It seems much more appropriate for a funeral rather than a holiday celebration. c) _____ in America, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere. Many other Irish songs are similarly depressing, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." That song relates the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. 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 free Guinness for singing any traditional Irish song except "Danny Boy."

e) _____ , others consider it a break with tradition. It would be akin to a December without "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

STUDENT HANDOUT (activities)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

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

2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	spike	f.	optimistic
b.	banned	g.	griped
c.	ranked	h.	frankly
d.	symbolizes	i.	patrons
e.	grim	j.	akin

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

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

2. Fragments:

a.	every person becomes Irish for a day.
b.	purchases of Guinness and Irish songs played on jukeboxes.
c.	funeral rather than a holiday celebration.
d.	a free Guinness for singing any traditional Irish song except "Danny Boy."
e.	a December without "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	globe	i.	griped
b.	spike	j.	frankly
c.	especially	k.	karaoke
d.	banned	l.	traditional
e.	ranked	m.	patrons
f.	symbolizes	n.	akin
g.	grim	o.	without
h.	optimistic		

2. Extended Listening

a.	On March 17th of each year, every person becomes Irish for a day
b.	"Danny Boy" is ranked as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time
c.	The song symbolizes a time when many Irish fled hunger and grim economic conditions for more optimistic opportunities
d.	The bar owner griped that the song gets played too much during the month
e.	Although some patrons are pleased with the decision