

STUDY GUIDE: Tina Farris

This study guide is to support virtual and in-person classes for students and teachers inspired by the movie *Respect* about the life of Aretha Franklin.

Overview

Tina Farris is a tour manager. She discusses her role as a tour manager, key tasks and responsibilities associated with that role, and relationships between a band's general manager, tour manager, and production manager. Emergent themes include:

- Transformation
- Bravery
- Positive attitude
- Communication

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to engage Tina Farris' attitudes towards transforming obstacles into opportunity through individual reflection and group discussion.

Students will be able to connect their current experiences in music to possible future careers through individual reflection and group discussion.

Essential Questions for Reflection Critical Thinking

Reflect on a time you engaged a growth mindset (or observed someone engaging a growth mindset) to transform a mistake, accident, or other negative experience. How might that experience motivate you? What effect might your decision(s) have on others close to you?

Discuss school music experiences that might have helped Tina Farris find solutions to some of the needs of the band members she served. How might your school music experiences guide you in finding solutions to unanticipated challenges in your adult life?

Reflect on Tina Farris' experience playing bass in high school and early career as a French teacher. Which of your musical experiences might combine with your non-musical interests as a catalyst for a music-related career?

Reflect on a time when the unexpected results of an event (or series of events) led to a turning point in your life. What, if anything, would you have changed if you had known about the 'unexpected' results? Why would (or wouldn't) you make that change?

Paths to successful careers in music can occur through unexpected means. How are Tina Farris' attitudes towards the results of her experiences similar to or different from attitudes of adults you know? What do you think accounts for these differences?

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Suggested Student Activities

Create a skit, drawing, sculpture, or pantomime set in the future that explores transformation, bravery, positive attitude, and/or communication through a combination of arts and non-arts disciplines. Be certain the artwork explores definitions of what transformation, bravery, positive attitude, and/or communication are and are not.

Research 2 – 3 artists (musicians, visual artists, actors, dancers, or digital media artists) who inspire you. Identify transformational moments in their careers. What decisions did each artist make at these turning points? How did the decisions impact the artist's career? Do/did the artist's attitudes towards these decisions impact the artist's future work? How?

Resources, References, and Key Terms

Resources: The Be Brave: Tina Farris video

References: Berklee College of Music Career Jam 2018 <https://www.berklee.edu/news/slideshow-career-jam-2018>
A Book Of interview (2020)
<https://www.abookof.us/arts-culture-society/tinafarris>

Key terms: *tour manager, production manager, inclination, communicate, malleable*

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