



Watch and Respond

Sing Street

Directed by John Carey

Please note: This support might be useful for exploring aspects of film and non-literary texts with students. It is part of a series of supports available on www.jct.ie/english

Background to the film:

As the island of Ireland moves to the beat of Pop music in the early 1980s, teenager Conor Lawlor struggles to cope with a tense family relationship, reconnecting with his older brother Brendan, and, above all, dealing with the hostile environment in his new public school. Then, one day, he sees Raphina across the street, and suddenly, his perspective on life takes a rather musical turn.

Learning Outcomes in Focus:

Oral Language 13	Develop their spoken language proficiency by experimenting with word choice, being creative with syntax, being precise, stimulating appropriate responses relative to context and purpose
Reading 8	Read their texts to understand and appreciate language enrichment by examining an author’s choice of words, the use and effect of simple figurative language, vocabulary and language patterns, and images, as appropriate to the text. ○★
Writing 6	Use editing skills continuously during the writing process to enhance meaning and impact: select vocabulary, reorder words, phrases and clauses, correct punctuation and spelling, reorder paragraphs, remodel, manage content. ○★
Writing 12	Demonstrate an understanding of how syntax, grammar, text structure and word choice may vary with context and purpose. ★



Possible links to L2LP:

Communication and Literacy:	1.13 Use simple rules and text conventions that support meaning, e.g., pause at a full stop.
Living in a Community:	4.2 Identify situations where people speak differently depending on audience, e.g., peers, teachers, parents, other adults.

The following activities may be completed in oral and/or written format.

Introductory Activity:

The words in bold in the following sentences describe some of the characters in the film, *Sing Street*. In the case of each word, tick **one** box to indicate what the word means as it is used in the sentence.

- a) Raphina's **impulsive** nature caused her to join the band.

Unusual Spontaneous Funny

- b) Conor's harmonic guitar strumming created an **introspective** mood.

Wild Reflective Harsh

- c) When Raphina and Conor left on the boat, Brendan sat there, **nostalgic**, wondering what could have been.

Sentimental Questioning Frustrated

- d) Barry conducted his conversation with Conor in his usual **combative** style.

Lonely Aggressive Rude

- e) Deep within Raphina was a **tenacious** will to succeed, to do better than anyone would expect.

Frustrated Angry Powerful



Pair/Group Oral Discussion:

The following clip from the film is available to watch on YouTube courtesy of *Filmcliplive*:
<https://youtu.be/uQY2JrtKc0I>

1. Do you like the lyrics used in this song? Discuss your reasoning with a classmate. Can you think of an alternative title for the song.
2. This song marks a changing point for the character of Conor in the film. Can you spot any physical changes in his appearance as the song develops. Can you suggest any external factors that may have caused this transformation?
3. Based on your viewing of the clip, discuss two choices the director has made when directing this scene. Suggested topics include: use of lighting, camera angles/movement, costume for example.

Possible Extended Writing Activities:

A. Letter Writing

Watch the following clip from the film, *Sing Street*. The clip is available to watch on YouTube courtesy of *Filmcliplive* - <https://youtu.be/Fh1RDWIXmFg>

Having watched the clip, how do you imagine Conor's life in London? What might he be doing/achieving? Write a **letter** from Conor to his brother Darren, describing the first six months of his new life.



Note for Teachers: You might like to co-construct some key points with students to include in their pieces.

OR

B. Writing a Review

The following link will bring you to an RTE article which reviews the film, *Sing Street*.

Before beginning, read this sample article to familiarise yourself with the various

aspects of review writing: <https://tinyurl.com/RTEsingstreet>

Using the article above as a model, **write your own review of the film, *Sing Street***, for publication on your school's website. In this piece you might consider to how syntax, text structure and word choice may vary with context and purpose.

Note for Teachers:

You might like to co-construct some key points with students to include in their pieces. Some points might include the following:

- a plot overview of the film (without revealing the ending to the reader)
- comparisons with other texts (novels, short films, poems, drama) you have studied
- what you liked or disliked about the film including your favourite/least favourite scene/character