

GUSTAFAER YELLOWGOLD

EMOTIONAL LITERACY and GUSTAFAER YELLOWGOLD

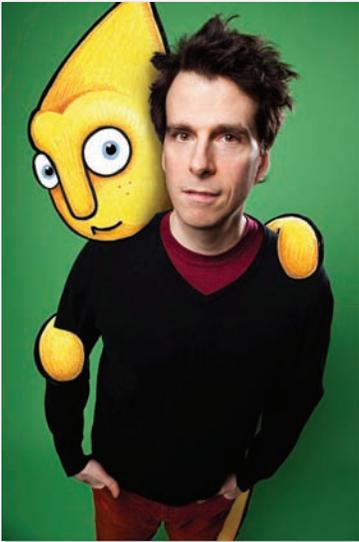


PHOTO: ERIN PATRICE O'BRIEN

The characters of Gustafer Yellowgold's world are ideal tools for teachers to encourage discussion and learning in the realm of Emotional Literacy.

The animated story-songs created by Morgan Taylor tell how Gustafer leaves his home on the Sun, travels to Earth, meets new friends and makes it his home.

Once settled on Earth he begins to explore and marvel at his surroundings, go on adventures, interact with his new friends, learning both the positive and negative aspects of life and relationships and experiencing the myriad of emotions that we all experience in our lives.

Themes of friendship, love, longing, humor, death, jealousy, independence, excitement, joy, exploration, wonder, curiosity, anger and imagination abound throughout. Gustafer's warmth and naïveté endear his personality to the viewer in such a way that the viewer can relate to all the varying emotions he experiences and apply them to his/her own life.

LESSONS

There are many "lessons" in Gustafer's world...

Empathy: Learning to notice when someone else is suffering and changing your behavior to help them. In *Aye, Aphid*, Asparagus, the corn-hoarding dragon, shares his dinner with a hungry visitor.

Positivity: Turning negative aspects into positive ones. Gustafer learns that his hot hands can be a help instead of a hindrance in *Melter Swelter*.

Bravery: Leaving home to travel to a new place - Gustafer takes a big chance when he travels to earth to start a new life in *Sunpod*.

Negative Influences: Recognizing unappealing behavior and making a change to address it. In *Green Heart*, Gustafer recognizes his own behaviour hurts people he is close to, therefore he makes a change.

Loss: Experiencing the loss of something you care about and how to live with the loss. In *Panther Stamps Pants*, Gustafer's best friend comes to terms with the loss of his favorite pair of bell-bottoms. Gustafer explores his own and others' mortality in *I'm From The Sun*, *Your Eel* and *Birds*.



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DISCUSSIONS

And many opportunities for discussion around each song/video...

- What happened during this song?
- Who was the song about?
- How were the characters feeling?
- What was the problem?
- How did they solve the problem?
- How could they solve the problem in a different way?

CURRICULUM

How does Gustafer's world incorporate curriculum standards?

Ideas or moods are communicated through music through composition of lyrics, tempo, tones, keys (major/minor), voicing, arrangement.

People respond to their world through music by...

- *Learning* to play an instrument or use their voice.
- *Participating* in community music in church, school, bands, etc.
- *Experiencing* music in organized groups such as choirs or drum circles.
- *Actively Listening* to music, developing preferences, collecting favorite artists/styles.
- *Passive listening* to music in public places.
- *Writing/composing* one's own music.
- *Connecting* to a song about a particular topic or in a specific mood.
- *Relating* a particular topic or in a specific mood to one's own life experience.

Language Arts/Analyzing literature - students learn to comprehend plot, determine character development, identify the underlying theme and speaker of the songs.



For more information about **Gustafer Yellowgold Arts Enrichment** programs please contact **Rachel Loshak**.



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