



# The Story of One Song

THIS LESSON IS DEDICATED  
TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY  
IN THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

Vera Igorevna Seravkina © |  
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## Цели и задачи урока

Данный урок «История одной песни» подготовлен для участия в международном конкурсе методических разработок «Уроки Победы» и посвящен 75-летию Победы в Великой Отечественной войне.

Целью данного урока является:

- знакомство учащихся с музыкальным произведением «Ленинград», написанным американским поэтом, композитором и исполнителем Билли Джоэлом.

Задачами данного урока являются:

- развитие навыков аудирования на английском языке;
- развитие навыков критического мышления;
- воспитание патриотизма.

## ФОРМЫ РАБОТЫ

В ходе урока применяются три основные формы работы с учащимися: фронтальная, парная, индивидуальная.

## ЯЗЫКОВЫЕ КОМПЕТЕНЦИИ

Урок построен таким образом, что у преподавателя есть возможность развить у учащихся все основные языковые компетенции: аудирование, чтение, речь и письмо.

## МЕЖПРЕДМЕТНЫЕ СВЯЗИ

Тема урока предполагает тесную связь таких предметов, как Английский язык, История и Музыка.

## УРОВЕНЬ ВЛАДЕНИЯ ЯЗЫКОМ

Урок рассчитан на учащихся старших 9-11 классов. Уровень владения английским языком в соответствии с международной шкалой B1-B2.

## ТЕХНИЧЕСКИЕ ТРЕБОВАНИЯ К ПРОВЕДЕНИЮ УРОКА

Оборудование для воспроизведения аудиозаписи, проектор для показа видео и фотоматериалов, распечатка текстовых материалов для учащихся и преподавателя.

## Warm-up

Write on the board the following dates:

1703 – 1914

1914 – 1924

1924 – 1991

1991 – up to now

encourage students to remember the Russian city which changed its name two times but finally returned to the original one. Write the correct answer:

1703 – 1914                      **Saint-Petersburg**

1914 – 1924                      **Petrograd**

1924 – 1991                      **Leningrad**

1991 – up to now                **Saint-Petersburg**

Ask students to remember the darkest pages in the history of Leningrad if they remember when the blockade of Leningrad happened, how long it lasted, how many people died, encourage them to speak.

## Reading

Hand-out the following paper and ask students to work in pairs and fill in the blanks in the text with the numbers.

1942                      7                      200,000                      9                      1944                      650,000

In Leningrad, the Soviet Union underwent an invasion by Germany and was mobilized to build antitank fortifications along the city's perimeter in support of the city's \_\_\_\_\_ Red Army defenders. German blockade siege claimed \_\_\_\_\_ Leningrader lives in \_\_\_\_\_ alone, mostly from starvation, exposure, disease, and shelling from distant German artillery. In January \_\_\_\_\_ a successful Soviet offensive drove the Germans westward from the city's outskirts, ending the siege.

The blockade of Leningrad is an example of courage and firmness of its inhabitants. Despite the constant hunger and cold winters, Leningraders sought by all means to preserve its status as a cultural capital. They even found the strength to attend performances and concerts. The most famous musical work, "Leningrad" Symphony No. \_\_\_\_\_, was written by Dmitry Shostakovich and played on August \_\_\_\_\_, 1942, the day when Hitler planned that the city would fall from the blockade.

*Check the answers.*

**In Leningrad, the Soviet Union underwent an invasion by Germany and was mobilized to build antitank fortifications along the city's perimeter in support of the city's 200,000 Red Army defenders. German blockade siege claimed 650,000 Leningrader lives in 1942 alone, mostly from starvation, exposure, disease, and shelling from distant German artillery. In January 1944 a successful Soviet offensive drove the Germans westward from the city's outskirts, ending the siege.**

**The blockade of Leningrad is an example of courage and firmness of its inhabitants. Despite the constant hunger and cold winters, Leningraders sought by all means to preserve its status as a cultural capital. They even found the strength to attend performances and concerts. The most famous musical work, "Leningrad" Symphony No. 7, was written by Dmitry Shostakovich and played on August 9, 1942, the day when Hitler planned that the city would fall from the blockade.**

В Ленинграде Советский Союз пережил вторжение Германии и был мобилизован на строительство противотанковых укреплений по периметру города в поддержку 200 000 защитников Красной Армии. Только в 1942 году блокада Германии унесла 650 000 жизней ленинградцев, в основном от голода, заражения, болезней и артиллерийских обстрелов со стороны отдаленной немецкой артиллерии. В январе 1944 года успешное наступление советских войск заставило немцев уйти на запад от окраин города, положив конец осаде.

Блокада Ленинграда является примером мужества и стойкости его жителей. Несмотря на постоянный голод и холодные зимы, ленинградцы всячески стремились сохранить статус культурной столицы. Они даже находили в себе силы посещать спектакли и концерты. Самое известное музыкальное произведение, Симфония № 7 "Ленинградская", была написана Дмитрием Шостаковичем и сыграна 9 августа 1942 года, в день, когда Гитлер планировал, что город падет от блокады.

## Listening and writing

*Show students the picture of Billy Joel. Ask if they know him. Tell them the main facts.*



**Billy Joel, who was born on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1949, is an American singer-songwriter, composer, and pianist. He is commonly nicknamed as the "Piano Man". Joel has won five Grammys, including Album of the Year for "52nd Street" and Song of the Year and Record of the Year for "Just the Way You Are".**

In 1987 he visited the Soviet Union during his world tour and met a Russian circus clown named Viktor Razinov. Viktor was a long-time fan of Billy Joel and went to all his six shows through the whole country. When Billy learned of this, he invited Viktor backstage to meet him. They exchanged stories, spent a bit of time with each others' families, and actually stayed friends for a long time. During their first meeting, Viktor told Billy about his father who died in the blockade while Victor was a little boy. Victor and his mother miraculously survived. Joel was so impressed by Victor's life that he wrote the song under the name "Leningrad."

Play the video *Billy Joel \_ Leningrad. MPEG4*. Ask students if they understood what this song is really about.

Hand out the lyrics of the song to each student, explain that they need to fill in the blanks with the missed words and play the recording one more time.

<p>Victor was born  The spring of _____  And never saw  His _____ anymore  The child of sacrifice  Child of _____  Another son who never had  A father after Leningrad  Went off to _____  And learned to serve his state  _____ the rules  And drank his vodka straight  The only _____ to live  Was drown the hate  The Russian life was very _____  And such was life in Leningrad</p> <p>I was born in _____  A cold war kid in the McCarthy times  Stop 'em at the 38th parallel  Blast those yellow reds to hell  Cold war kids were hard to _____  Under their desks in an air raid drill  Haven't they heard we won the war  What _____ they keep on fighting for?</p>	<p>Victor was sent  To some red _____ town  Served out his time  Become a circus _____  The greatest happiness  He'd ever found  Was making _____ children glad  When children lived in Leningrad.</p> <p>The children lived in Levittown  Hid in the shelters _____  Til the soviets turned their ships around  Torn the Cuban missiles down  And in that bright October _____  We knew our childhood days were done  I watched my _____ go off to war  What do they _____ on fighting for?</p> <p>So my child and I came to this place  To meet him, _____ to _____ and face to face  He made my _____ laugh  Then we embraced  We never knew what friends we had  Until we came to _____.</p>
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Check the answers, help them understand the lyrics if necessary.

<p>Victor was born          The spring of 44          And never saw          His father anymore          The child of sacrifice          Child of war          Another son who never had          A father after Leningrad          Went off to school          And learned to serve his state          Follow the rules          And drank his vodka straight          The only way to live          Was down the hate          The Russian life was very sad          And such was life in Leningrad</p> <p>I was born in 49          A cold war kid in the McCarthy times          Stop 'em at the 38th parallel          Blast those yellow reds to hell          Cold war kids were hard to kill          Under their desks in an air raid drill          Haven't they heard we won the war          What do they keep on fighting for?</p>	<p>Victor was sent          To some red army town          Served out his time          Become a circus clown          The greatest happiness          He'd ever found          Was making Russian children glad          When children lived in Leningrad.</p> <p>The children lived in Levittown          Hid in the shelters underground          Til the soviets turned their ships around          Torn the Cuban missiles down          And in that bright October sun          We knew our childhood days were done          I watched my friends go off to war          What do they keep on fighting for?</p> <p>So my child and I came to this place          To meet him, eye to eye and face to face          He made my daughter laugh          Then we embraced          We never knew what friends we had          Until we came to Leningrad.</p>
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## Speaking and feedback

Ask students again if they understood better now what this song is about. Tell them the fact that...

**In 2015, Viktor traveled to New York to see Billy Joel's concert in Madison Square Garden. For this reunion, Billy played "Leningrad," which he rarely plays live.**



Read out one of the comments from the Internet or show it on the screen:

*This song is probably an anti-war message to remove the hostility between the Soviets and the Americans, as exhibited by, " Haven't they heard we won the war What do they keep on fighting for?" for the Russians and then he repeats this line for the Americans when he says, "And I watched my friends go off to war What do they keep on fighting for?" The lyrics then state, "We never knew what friends we had until we came to Leningrad." This line encompasses the main idea of the song that both sides of the war have been taught that the other side is evil, because of propaganda; but to the contrary, they share the same struggles and found this out when they finally met each other.*

Do they agree with the opinion above? Encourage them to express their own opinions concerning the main idea of the song, the true meaning of friendship between countries and peace preservation. Finally, ask students to describe their personal emotions after listening to the song "Leningrad" and give marks for their active work during the lesson.

1942

7

200,000

9

1944

650,000

In Leningrad, the Soviet Union underwent an invasion by Germany and was mobilized to build antitank fortifications along the city's perimeter in support of the city's \_\_\_\_\_ Red Army defenders. German blockade siege claimed \_\_\_\_\_ Leningrader lives in \_\_\_\_\_ alone, mostly from starvation, exposure, disease, and shelling from distant German artillery. In January \_\_\_\_\_ a successful Soviet offensive drove the Germans westward from the city's outskirts, ending the siege.

The blockade of Leningrad is an example of courage and firmness of its inhabitants. Despite the constant hunger and cold winters, Leningraders sought by all means to preserve its status as a cultural capital. They even found the strength to attend performances and concerts. The most famous musical work, "Leningrad" Symphony No. \_\_\_\_\_, was written by Dmitry Shostakovich and played on August \_\_\_\_\_, 1942, the day when Hitler planned that the city would fall from the blockade.

### ***Billy Joel \_ Leningrad***

Victor was born  
The spring of \_\_\_\_\_  
And never saw  
His \_\_\_\_\_ anymore  
The child of sacrifice  
Child of \_\_\_\_\_  
Another son who never had  
A father after Leningrad  
Went off to \_\_\_\_\_  
And learned to serve his state  
\_\_\_\_\_ the rules  
And drank his vodka straight  
The only \_\_\_\_\_ to live  
Was drown the hate  
The Russian life was very \_\_\_\_\_  
And such was life in Leningrad

I was born in \_\_\_\_\_  
A cold war kid in the McCarthy times  
Stop 'em at the 38th parallel  
Blast those yellow reds to hell  
Cold war kids were hard to \_\_\_\_\_  
Under their desks in an air raid drill  
Haven't they heard we won the war  
What \_\_\_\_\_ they keep on fighting for?

Victor was sent  
To some red \_\_\_\_\_ town  
Served out his time  
Become a circus \_\_\_\_\_  
The greatest happiness  
He'd ever found  
Was making \_\_\_\_\_ children glad  
When children lived in Leningrad.

The children lived in Levittown  
Hid in the shelters \_\_\_\_\_  
Til the soviets turned their ships around  
Torn the Cuban missiles down  
And in that bright October \_\_\_\_\_  
We knew our childhood days were done  
I watched my \_\_\_\_\_ go off to war  
What do they \_\_\_\_\_ on fighting for?

So my child and I came to this place  
To meet him, \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and face to face  
He made my \_\_\_\_\_ laugh  
Then we embraced  
We never knew what friends we had  
Until we came to \_\_\_\_\_.

