

**Lesson 4** (12 min. 12 sec.) from Mr. Holland's Opus  
Chapters 8-10—37:19 to 49:31

**Please note that our sample lesson plan is in English so that teachers of all languages can get an idea of how our lessons are constructed. For languages other than English, anything handed out to the student will be in the target language.**

Overview of the action: Driving to hospital, meeting his son, playing the piano with Iris and Coltrane, Jacobs talks to Mr. Holland about teaching students rock and roll, marching band for football, deal with Bill Meister, working with Lou Russ, band rehearses, Mr. Barr's spit valve, Lou Russ says he will work hard.

Vocabulary

I marched my keister off. (slang)	(keister=rear end) I marched a lot.
to make a deal	to agree to do something if someone else agrees to do something also
couth	sophisticated
spit valve	part of musical instrument that collects saliva
rehearsal	when one practices for a performance
beat	rhythm
breakdown	collapse, failure
eligible	is allowed to participate because grades are good

Cultural Notes:

1. The marching band plays at football games during half-time. They march and play their instruments on the field, and they make different shapes and formations with their bodies.
2. Students who participate in sports are required to pass a minimum number of courses in order to be able to participate. If they do, they are academically eligible. If they are not passing the minimum number of courses, they are ineligible to play sports.
3. Note that the marching band plays *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, a very patriotic number.

Activity 1A: Put the sentences in the correct order.

Answers:

1. 5. Mr. Holland drives his Driver's Ed students to the hospital. He speeds, goes through stop signs, etc.
2. 7. Mr. Holland meets his son, Coltrane, in the hospital room.
3. 2. Mr. Holland sings a children's song for Coltrane.
4. 10. Mrs. Jacobs wants to discuss the fact that Mr. Holland is teaching his students rock and roll.
5. 8. Mr. Wolters says that rock and roll leads to a breakdown in discipline.
6. 1. Mrs. Jacobs and Mr. Wolters suggest a marching band for football

- games.
7. 6. Bill Meister interrupts marching band practice. He wants to make a deal with Mr. Holland.
  8. 9. Mr. Holland talks with Lou Russ. He will play the drum.
  9. 3. The marching band plays *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. Lou Russ has a problem with the beat. Mr. Barr empties his spit valve.
  10. 4. After rehearsal, Lou Russ tells Mr. Holland that he will work very hard.

Activity 1B: Answer the comprehension questions.

Activity 2: Popular Music

Name the kinds of music popular today. What do your parents think of this music? Do they approve of it? Do they like it? Is there a relationship between what Mrs. Jacobs and Mr. Wolters say about rock and roll and what your parents say about music today?

Activity 3: Naming a Baby

Iris and Mr. Holland name their baby Coltrane because of the story about the John Coltrane album. What names would you like for a child—both a girl and a boy? Which would you prefer for a first child—a boy or a girl?

Activity 4: Children's Song

Sometimes the words or lyrics to children's songs are very strange or silly. Look at the words to *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* (attached). You may even want to sing it in class. It is a very popular children's song.

Homework: Composition

Describe your least favorite teacher. What did he/she do to make him/her your least favorite?

## LESSON 4

### ACTIVITY 1A

Put the sentences in the correct order.

1. Mrs. Jacobs and Mr. Wolters suggest a marching band for football games.
2. Mr. Holland sings a children's song for Coltrane.
3. The marching band plays *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. Lou Russ has a problem with the beat. Mr. Barr empties his spit valve.
4. After rehearsal, Lou Russ tells Mr. Holland that he will work very hard.
5. Mr. Holland drives his Driver's Ed. students to the hospital. He speeds, goes through stop signs, etc.
6. Bill Meister interrupts marching band practice. He wants to make a deal with Mr. Holland.
7. Mr. Holland meets his son, Coltrane, in the hospital room.
8. Mr. Wolters says that rock and roll leads to a breakdown in discipline.
9. Mr. Holland talks with Lou Russ. He will play the drum.
10. Mrs. Jacobs wants to discuss the fact that Mr. Holland is teaching his students rock and roll.

## **LESSON 4**

### **ACTIVITY 1B**

Answer the following questions.

1. Where is Mr. Holland going?
2. What laws does Mr. Holland break?
3. What is the name of the baby?
4. After what musician is the baby named?
5. What kind of song does Mr. Holland sing for his son?
6. What does Mrs. Jacobs want to discuss with Mr. Holland?
7. What does rock and roll lead to, according to Mr. Wolters?
8. Why does Mr. Holland teach rock and roll?
9. What do Mrs. Jacobs and Mr. Wolters suggest for football games?
10. Why did Bill Meister kick Lou Russ off his team?
11. What deal does he want to make with Mr. Holland?
12. What instrument does Lou Russ play?
13. Does Lou Russ know how to read music?
14. Why doesn't Lou Russ want to play the tuba?
15. What instrument will he play?
16. What problems does Lou Russ have when he plays?
17. What is Mr. Barr doing that is not couth?

## LESSON 4

### ACTIVITY 1B—ANSWERS

1. Where is Mr. Holland going?  
*to the hospital*
2. What laws does Mr. Holland break?  
*He speeds, he goes through a stop sign, he passes on the right, he goes the wrong way down a one-way street.*
3. What is the name of the baby?  
*Coltrane*
4. After what musician is the baby named?  
*John Coltrane*
5. What kind of song does Mr. Holland sing for his son?  
*a children's song about a spider and an old lady*
6. What does Mrs. Jacobs want to discuss with Mr. Holland?  
*He is teaching students rock and roll.*
7. What does rock and roll lead to, according to Mr. Wolters?  
*a breakdown in discipline*
8. Why does Mr. Holland teach rock and roll?  
*He will use anything to get students to love music.*
9. What do Mrs. Jacobs and Mr. Wolters suggest for football games?  
*a marching band*
10. Why did Bill Meister kick Lou Russ off his team?  
*bad grades*
11. What deal does he want to make with Mr. Holland?  
*Let Lou Russ play in the band and get academic credit and Bill Meister will help with marching band.*
12. What instrument does Lou Russ play?  
*He doesn't play an instrument.*
13. Does Lou Russ know how to read music?  
*no*
14. Why doesn't Lou Russ want to play the tuba?  
*It's for fat guys with pimples.*
15. What instrument will he play?  
*the drums*
16. What problems does Lou Russ have when he plays?  
*He is off beat; he loses his place.*
17. What is Mr. Barr doing that is not couth?  
*He is emptying his spit valve on the shoe of the person sitting next to him.*

## LESSON 4

### ACTIVITY 4

*I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*

I know an old lady  
Who swallowed a fly.  
I don't know why  
She swallowed that fly.  
Perhaps she'll die.

I know an old lady  
Who swallowed a spider  
That wiggled and jiggled  
And tickled inside her.

She swallowed the spider  
To catch the fly.  
I don't know why  
She swallowed that fly.  
Perhaps she'll die.