Lesson 2 – Pre-Visit
Baseball in Popular Music and Memory

Objective: Students will be able to:
- Students will analyze, discuss, and compare popular music.
- Use primary sources to analyze contemporary public opinion.
- Place music within a historical/social context.

Time Required: 1 class period

Materials Needed:
- Joe DiMaggio fact sheet (included)
- Lyric sheets for "Joltin' Joe DiMaggio," and "Mrs. Robinson (included)
- Printed copies of the following articles for each student:
  o "The Big Guy" Time Magazine, October 4, 1948
    (http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,799271-1,00.html)

Vocabulary:
Mood - A distinctive emotional quality or character
Primary Source - An original document pertaining to an event or subject of inquiry; a firsthand or eyewitness account of an event
Secondary Source - Any document that describes an event, person, place, or thing, usually not created during the same period of time
Tone - A particular quality, way of sounding, modulation, or intonation of the voice as expressive of some meaning, feeling, spirit, etc.
Applicable Common Core State Standards:
1. Distribute song lyrics for "Joltin' Joe DiMaggio," (included) and play the song by Les Brown and His Band of Renown.

2. After the students listen to the song, hand out the Joe DiMaggio fact sheets (included).

3. Discuss the following questions:
   - Who is the subject of the song? (Joe DiMaggio)
   - What major event in his career is referenced in the song? (DiMaggio's 56-game hit streak)
   - What type of music is this?
   - What is the tone of the song?
   - What is the mood of the song?
   - Which elements of the song contributed to students' assessment of tone and mood? (i.e. rhythm, style, lyrics)

4. Distribute copies of the article, "The Big Guy," and give students a few minutes to read.

5. Both the song and the article were written in the 1940s. Ask students to identify if the song and article would be primary or secondary sources? (Both are primary sources)

6. Based on the song and the article, ask students how people perceived Joe DiMaggio during his playing career? Was he more than just a great baseball player? Would he have been considered a hero? What qualities did he possess that made him admirable?

7. Distribute song lyrics for "Mrs. Robinson," (included) and play the song by Simon & Garfunkel. Explain that this song was a #1 single written for the soundtrack to the movie The Graduate in 1968.
8. Discuss the following questions:
   - Who is the subject of this song? (Mrs. Robinson - The Graduate)
   - How is Joe DiMaggio referenced in this song?
   - What type of music is this?
   - What is the tone of the song?
   - What is the mood of the song?
   - Which elements of the song contributed to students' assessment of tone and mood?

9. Distribute copies of the article, "Silent Superstar," and give students a few minutes to read.

10. Ask students to identify if the song and article would be **primary** or **secondary sources**? (Again, both are primary sources)

11. Discuss the final verse of the song, the one referenced by Paul Simon in his article. When the song was released, Joe DiMaggio felt offended by the final verse. Why? (He was still a public figure and could not understand what Paul Simon meant by asking where he had gone - He had a literal interpretation of the lyrics)

12. Ask students to identify the meaning that Paul Simon intended for the lyrics of the final verse. (Paul Simon's intent was to identify Joe DiMaggio as a hero; in contemporary society of 1968 Simon could not find heroes of the same quality)

13. Based on this article, what characteristics made Joe DiMaggio admirable and heroic?

14. Ask students to consider the phrase from the article, "DiMaggio suffered for being DiMaggio." What does this mean? As a society, what do we expect of our heroes?

15. Now ask students to consider both articles. Did the perception of Joe DiMaggio change over time? If so, how?

**Conclusion:**
To conclude this lesson, briefly review that many generations of Americans have recognized Joe DiMaggio as not only a great baseball player but also a hero. Ask students for other examples of enduring heroes in American popular culture. To check for understanding, have students write a short essay about one of today's popular culture heroes. Students should address the following questions: What qualities does the hero possess that make him or her admirable? How and why is that person honored/celebrated?
"Joltin' Joe DiMaggio," by Les Brown & His Band of Renown (1941)

Hello Joe, whatta you know?  
We need a hit so here I go.  
Ball one (yea!)  
Ball two (yea!)  
Strike one (Booo!)  
Strike two (Kill that umpire!)  
A case of Wheaties

He started baseball's famous streak  
That's got us all aglow  
He's just a man and not a freak,  
Joltin' Joe DiMaggio

Joe, Joe DiMaggio  
We want you on our side

He tied the mark at forty-four  
July the 1st you know  
Since then he's hit a good twelve more  
Joltin' Joe DiMaggio

Joe, Joe DiMaggio  
We want you on our side

From coast to coast that's all you'll hear  
Of Joe the one man show  
He's glorified the horsehide sphere  
Joltin' Joe DiMaggio

Joe, Joe DiMaggio  
We want you on our side

He'll live in baseball's Hall of Fame  
He got there blow by blow  
Our kids will tell their kids his name  
Joltin' Joe DiMaggio

We dream of Joey with the light brown plaque  
Joe, Joe DiMaggio  
We want you on our side

And now they speak in whispers low  
Of how they stopped our Joe  
One night in Cleveland Oh Oh Oh  
Goodbye streak DiMaggio

1 http://www.baseball-almanac.com/poetry/joltinjoedimaggio.shtml
"Mrs. Robinson," by Paul Simon & Art Garfunkel (1968)²

And here's to you, Mrs. Robinson
Jesus loves you more than you will know (Wo, wo, wo)
God bless you please, Mrs. Robinson
Heaven holds a place for those who pray
(Hey, hey, hey...hey, hey, hey)

We'd like to know a little bit about you for our files
We'd like to help you learn to help yourself
Look around you, all you see are sympathetic eyes
Stroll around the grounds until you feel at home

And here's to you, Mrs. Robinson
Jesus loves you more than you will know (Wo, wo, wo)
God bless you please, Mrs. Robinson
Heaven holds a place for those who pray
(Hey, hey, hey...hey, hey, hey)

Hide it in a hiding place where no one ever goes
Put it in your pantry with your cupcakes
It's a little secret, just the Robinsons' affair
Most of all, you've got to hide it from the kids

Coo, coo, ca-choo, Mrs Robinson
Jesus loves you more than you will know (Wo, wo, wo)
God bless you please, Mrs. Robinson
Heaven holds a place for those who pray
(Hey, hey, hey...hey, hey, hey)

Sitting on a sofa on a Sunday afternoon
Going to the candidates debate
Laugh about it, shout about it
When you've got to choose
Ev'ry way you look at it, you lose

Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio
A nation turns its lonely eyes to you (Woo, woo, woo)
What's that you say, Mrs. Robinson
Joltin' Joe has left and gone away
( Hey, hey, hey...hey, hey, hey)

² http://www.lyricsondemand.com/s/simonandgarfunkellyrics/mrsrobinsonlyrics.html
Joe DiMaggio Fact Sheet

Name: Joseph Paul DiMaggio

Nicknames: Joltin' Joe, the Yankee Clipper

Born: November 25, 1914 in Martinez, CA

Died: March 8, 1999 in Hollywood, FL

Baseball Debut: May 3, 1936

Team: Played center field for the New York Yankees, 1936-42 and 1946-1951. (Enlisted and served in the U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) during World War II)

Final Game: September 30, 1951

Career Statistics and Highlights:

- 3-time winner of the Most Valuable Player award
- Selected for the All-Star Game in every season he played (13 seasons - the only player with this accomplishment)
- Holds a major league record for his 56-game hitting streak (May 15-July 16, 1941)
- Batting average: .325
- Slugging percentage: .579
- Home runs: 361
- Hits: 2214
- Runs batted in (RBI): 1537
- His number, 5, was retired by the New York Yankees in 1952

Inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame: 1955