

Death of Dolly Parton (August 31, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? The death of Dolly Parton, one of the greatest stars of country music, who passed away at the age of 80.

Who? Dolly Parton, an American singer and songwriter born into a family of 12 children, who wrote thousands of songs, including the famous "Jolene."

Where? In Nashville, Tennessee, USA, the city known as the capital of country music.

When? On Tuesday, August 25, 2026, when her family announced the news to the world.

Why is it important? Because Dolly Parton left her mark on music for over 60 years and wrote "I Will Always Love You," one of the most well-known songs in the world.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn a little more about Dolly Parton.



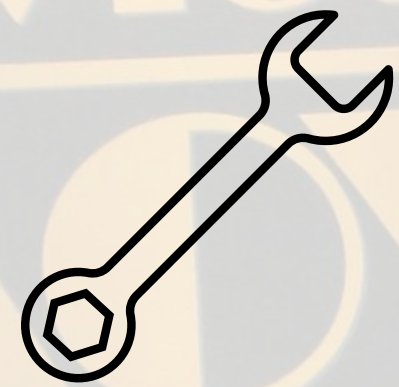
OBJECTIVES

- Discover Dolly Parton's career using keywords from her Wikipedia article.
- Discover "9 to 5," a song written by Dolly Parton for the 1980 film of the same name.
- Discover "I Will Always Love You," written in 1973, and its cover version by Whitney Houston in 1992.
- Compare two interpretations of the same song and justify your preference.



SUBJECTS

- **English**
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Keyword Identification
 - Written Expression (Short Answers)
- **Arts/Music**
 - Active Listening
 - Comparing Performances
 - Musical Genres (Country)
- **Social Studies/Culture**
 - United States and Tennessee
 - Careers and the World of Work
 - Celebrities and Popular Culture



COMPETENCIES

- Researching and interpreting information
- Identifying keywords in a digital text
- Reading and understanding a poem
- Listening to and comparing musical works
- Formulating and justifying an opinion
- Producing a structured response



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they know Dolly Parton, or if they've ever heard one of her songs without knowing she was the songwriter.
- Ask them if they know a song that exists in several versions, sung by different artists.
- Play a few seconds of "9 to 5" without saying anything, and gather their impressions.
- Gather their hypotheses: what makes a song last fifty years?

Death of Dolly Parton (August 31, 2026)



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TEACHING GUIDE

STEP 1 — Dolly in a Few Words. Search for keywords in the Wikipedia article about Dolly Parton, then writing of short answers explaining each connection.

Q1 — Miley Cyrus is Dolly Parton's goddaughter. The two singers have performed together several times.

Q2 — Dolly Parton received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1984 to recognize her career.

Q3 — Dollywood is the amusement park that Dolly Parton opened in 1986 in her home state of Tennessee.

Q4 — The Imagination Library is the program created by Dolly Parton in 1995 to send free books to young children.

STEP 2 — Working from 9 to 5. Watching of the *9 to 5* video, reading of the lyrics, then answers to four comprehension questions.

Q5 — Very early in the morning, around 6 a.m. His first action is to pour himself a cup of coffee to wake up.

Q6 — From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (5 p.m.), that's eight hours of work: typical office hours.

Q7 — He takes advantage of his employees' work to climb the corporate ladder, without ever giving them recognition or promotions.

Q8 — Numbers. There are many workers: if they stand together, they can make a difference.

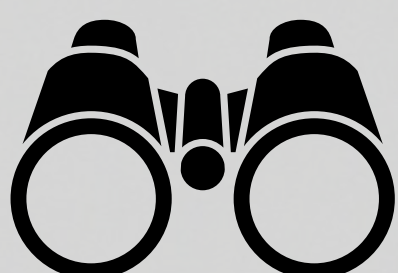
STEP 3 — One Song, Two Versions. Listening of Dolly Parton's version (1973) and Whitney Houston's version (1992), then writing of a reasoned opinion response.

Q9 — Personal answer

WRAPPING UP



- Conduct a group discussion about what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them most (the thousands of songs written, Dollywood Park, the nineteen years between the two versions of "I Will Always Love You").
- Gather the class's preferences for Question 9 and have them state their reasons.
- Ask: Why can a song written fifty years ago still resonate with someone today?



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara & Daria Solak. *Dolly Parton*.
Frances Lincoln Children's Books

