For The First Time – Rod Stewart - Notes

- **Activity type 1:** Matching monologue to situation and recognizing phonological and situational correspondences between monologue and song lyrics. (30-40 mins.)
- **Activity type 2:** from songs to storyboard to verbs of perception and mental process. (90 mins.)
- **Note:** This was recorded for the 1996 album "If We Fall In Love Tonight", a collection of Rod Stewart love songs. That year there was also an Oscar-nominated version of the song, recorded by Kenny Loggins and featured in the film *One Fine Day*.

**ACTIVITY 1**

1) Give each student a copy of the worksheet, but ask them to fold it so as they cannot read the song lyrics. Ask them to look at the monologue with main stresses and pauses between ‘chunks’ marked, then read it aloud to the rhythm of the song as students follow the text.

2) Ask students for ideas on the situational context of the monologue (What do you think has happened / is happening?)
   One possibility is:
   Someone goes to stay the night at a friend’s house, and the next morning notices that some of her/his belongings are in her/his friend’s bedroom (books, pen, socks). S/he realizes how different the “friend” is from what s/he believed and is very upset.

3) Get students, in chorus, to imitate your reading of each chunk of the monologue, making the mouth (articulation) movements without actually saying the words.

4) Say you’re going to play a song, Rod Stewart’s "For the First Time". In what way is it similar to the monologue? Play the song.
   **Key:** The rhythm is exactly the same.

5) Tell students to unfold the worksheet and sing along with the song.

6) Ask a final question. What is the main difference between the monologue situation and that of the song?
   **Key:** The monologue speaker discovers something about her/his friend and changes her/his attitude to her/him. The singer realizes that he loves a girl he has known for some time, and then their relationship changes radically.

**ACTIVITY 2**

1) Explain "storyboard": a series of rough sketches outlining the scene sequence and major changes of action or plot in a production to be shot on film or video.
   Illustrate the explanation with a series of stickpersons on the B/B or W/B or get the class to suggest a story in four scenes (Boy meets girl / girl’s father angry / boy rescues her father from drowning / girl walking up the aisle on her father’s arm, boy waiting at altar).

2) Discuss how this visual narrative resembles videos of songs.

3) Tell the class they’re going to invent storyboards of “For the First Time”, but in words. To do this, they have to split the lyrics into scenes representing changes, something along those on the final page of this worksheet. (Give them this later, not at this stage, so that they can discuss whose storyboard is most effective, that by one of the groups, or the teacher’s. The scenes can also be presented in scrambled order, for students to match with the lyrics.)

4) Tell the class that the order of occurrence of certain verbs gives the story of sudden realization. What are the verbs?
   **Key:** looking at / never seen / looking in / seeing / can’t believe / looking back / understand

5) Discuss the difference between looking at and looking in, and between verbs of perception and verbs of mental process.

6) Option for classes studying literature. Use the same verbs, in the same order, to describe the scene in Romeo and Juliet when Romeo first sees and speaks to Juliet. It goes from “looking” (O she doth teach the torches to burn bright) to “understanding” (She is a Capulet!)
For The First Time – Rod Stewart

Are those your books? / Is that your pen? / I’ve been looking at them for ages / but I didn’t know they were here.

Are these my socks? / These ones here? / Now I wonder how / you could have been so sly.

For the first time / I am seeing / what you’re like. / Didn’t know / you were stealing / all I have. / I can’t believe / I trusted you / when you’re stealing / all I have. / Now I understand / what you’re like / for the first time.

Are those your eyes?  
Is that your smile?  
I’ve been looking at you forever  
Yet I never saw you before  

Are these your hands?  
Holding mine  
Now I wonder how  
I could have been so blind  

And for the first time  
I am looking in your eyes  
For the first time  
I’m seeing who you are  
I can’t believe how much I see  
When you’re looking back at me  
Now I understand what love is, love is  
For the first time, oh yeah  

Can this be real?  
Can this be true?  
Am I the person I was this morning?  
And are you the same you?  

It’s all so strange  
How can it be?  
All along this love  
Was right in front of me  

And for the first time  
I am looking in your eyes  
For the first time  
I’m seeing who you are  
I can’t believe how much I see  
When you’re looking back at me  
Now I understand what love is, love is  
For the first time, ooh  

Such a long time ago  
I had given up on finding this emotion  
Ever again  
But you’re here with me now  
Yes I’ve found you somehow  
And I’ve never been so sure  

And for the first time  
I am looking in your eyes  
For the first time  
I’m seeing who you are  
Can’t believe how much I see  
When you’re looking back at me  
Now I understand what love is, love is  
For the first time  

For the first time
Scene 1 - During the introductory bars of the music.

Rod Stewart in taxi with girl. We realize they have known each other for a number of years. On the last five beats of the music, the taxi driver turns round and asks, “Off on your honeymoon?” They look at each other, she smiles, and his face lights up.

Scene 2 - Are those your eyes? / Is that your smile? / I’ve been looking at you forever / Yet I’ve never seen you before.

They stare at each other blankly, then into each others’ eyes, smiling openly.

Scene 3 - Are these your hands / Holding mine? / Now I wonder how I could have been so blind.

She takes his hands in hers.

Scene 4 - For the first time / I am looking in your eyes / For the first time / I’m seeing who you are. / I can’t believe how much I see / When you’re looking back at me

A flashback of him looking at her across a restaurant table, followed by an image of him looking in her eyes. They are oblivious to the fact that the taxi is driving through a crowd of demonstrators with placards...

Scene 5 - Now I understand what love is (love is) / For the first time

The placards say DOWN WITH WAR!

Scene 6 - Could this be real? / Could this be true?

The taxi draws up at the airport. They unload her luggage because she is catching the flight, not him.

Scene 7 - Am I the person I was this morning? / And are you the same you? / It’s all so strange / How can it be? / All along this love was right in front of me.

They pause, look incredulously at the luggage on the pavement, then at each other.

Scene 8 - And for the first time …… For the first time

They stand smiling at each other. The taxi driver scratches his head, impatient to be paid his fare.

Scene 9 - Such a long time ago / I had given up from finding his emotion ever again. /

Flashback to him queuing in the office canteen, sad.

Scene 10 - But you’re here with me now / Yes, I’ve found you somehow / And I’ve never been so sure

They get back into the taxi. The taxi driver shrugs and re-loads the luggage.

Scene 11 - For the first time ………….When you’re looking back at me

As they drive back, away from the airport, the crowd of demonstrators parts to let the taxi through.

Scene 12 - Now I understand what love is / For the first time / For the first time

Shot of the driver’s face, smiling knowingly, happy, as if he understands. The couple, out of focus, kissing in the back.