

# Paradoxical Birthday

## Objective

Everyone loves a dynamic performance, but singing with emotion is hard. Through this activity, students will develop their emotional range, leading to more believable and relatable performances.

## Goals

Develops improv, dynamics, investigating, reflecting, observing artistic work, musical expression, generating artistic ideas, and turn-taking

## Directions

1. Choose a familiar song (ex. Happy Birthday).
2. Ask your students to sing or play the song with a particular emotion. For instance:
  - Sadly, as if leaving your friends on the last day of camp
  - Cautiously, like walking a tightrope
  - Frightened, as if walking through a forest at night
  - Confused, like you're without directions
  - Caring, like singing to a kitten your family just rescued
  - Assertively, like your ordering dinner in a loud pizzeria
3. Connect the emotion to your student's experiences.
4. Explore skills like inflection, dynamics, and non-verbal cues.

## Modifications

### Level Down

- ↓ Students mirror the instructor rather than performing on their own
- ↓ Use [emotion choice board](#)

### Level Up

- ↑ Place students into pairs. Assign a different emotion to each student and then ask them to sing the song as a duet.

# Reflection

Ask each student to sing the song with a specific emotion. Then, ask the student to share what they did with their voice, face, or body to express the emotion.