

# TEACHER'S TOOL KIT

History • English Language Arts • Visual Arts • Music

## ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 3-5



# Reba

ALL THE WOMEN I AM



**LIMITED-RUN EXHIBITION, AUGUST 2013-JUNE 2014**

*Reba: All the Women I Am* examines the life of Reba McEntire, a hard-working recording artist, actress, and business woman who rose to stardom from humble Oklahoma roots. Use the following biography and tools to create lessons before or after a visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum or as a creative way to connect Reba's music and story to the classroom.

Exhibit support provided by:



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# Reba

ALL THE WOMEN I AM

Begin by asking your students what they know about Reba McEntire. Once students have shared, read Reba's biography (see back page) to the class or pass out copies for the students to read themselves. Then, select the activities that best correspond to your subject area.



Reba making her public singing debut with "Away in a Manger" in first grade.

## HISTORY

- **Geography:** Conduct geographical research about Kiowa, Oklahoma, Reba's hometown. What is the primary industry? What are environmental characteristics of the area?
- **History:** Select one of Reba's albums and research three major historical events that happened in the same year it came out. Present your findings to the class.
- **History:** Describe how you would conduct research about Reba. What sources would you use? Where would you find these sources?

Right: Trophy awarded to Reba when she was named salutatorian of Kiowa High School's Class of 1973.

Below: Reba wore these boots while competing in rodeo barrel racing as a child.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- **Writing (Narrative):** Write a journal entry discussing your chores and comparing them to the ones that Reba completed when she was a child.
- **Writing (Persuasive):** Write a letter from Reba to MCA Records persuading them to sign you.
- **Writing (Narrative):** Write an award acceptance speech for Reba.



## VISUAL ART

- Listen to the song “I’m a Survivor” (*Greatest Hits Vol. 3: I’m a Survivor*, 2001) and create artwork based on the scenes and emotions you hear in the song. Use color to emphasize the feelings and emotions.
- Choose one of Reba’s albums and create an album cover that you feel represents the theme of the album.
- What did growing up in Kiowa, Oklahoma, look like from Reba’s perspective? Paint or draw a picture and be prepared to explain your choices.
- Create a Reba comic strip with four frames.



Cover of Reba's 2001 album *Greatest Hits Vol. 3: I'm a Survivor*.



Reba hosting the ACM Awards, 2009.

## MUSIC

- **Performance:** Listen to the song “Turn on the Radio” (*All the Women I Am*, 2001). Focus on the rhythms and beats you hear in the music. Create your own version of the rhythms and sounds in the song using hands, feet, your desk, the floor, etc. Rehearse your rhythms in small groups and perform them for the class.
- **Composition:** Listen to the song “Walk On” (*50 Greatest Hits*, 2008), and talk to other students about the emotions expressed in the song. Discuss other songs that portray a lot of emotion. Write a poem or song expressing an emotion you talked about.
- **Composition:** Choose a theme from one of Reba’s songs and compose your own song about that theme. Use a variety of instruments or sources of sound to emphasize the theme.

# BIOGRAPHY



**Reba McEntire** was born in 1955 in Kiowa, Oklahoma. By the time she was six, Reba was waking before dawn to help gather the 3,000 cattle on her family’s ranch. As Reba grew older, she participated in more than fifty rodeos each year, and was actively involved in track and field and basketball at her school. Reba sang the “Star-Spangled Banner” at the 1974 National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City, where she met Red Steagall. He took her tape back to Nashville, and a year later she was signed to Mercury Records.

Reba’s career didn’t take off right away. Her first Top Ten hit came four years after she joined Mercury. In 1984, Reba switched to MCA Records, and her fortunes skyrocketed. She released two albums that year, *Just a Little Love* and *My Kind of Country*. She also received her first major award, Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year.

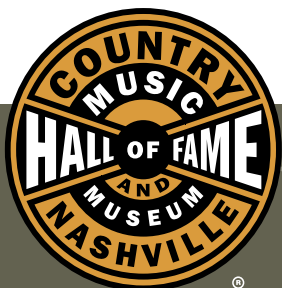
Reba quickly became one of the era’s most popular country artists, and she continued to explore new styles and themes. She developed a pop-influenced sound with her album *Rumor Has It* (1990). *For My Broken Heart* (1991) was Reba’s musical response to the tragic loss of eight band members and crew, who were killed in a plane crash returning from one of her concerts. With these two albums, Reba began her most successful decade as a record maker.

In 1988, Reba formed Starstruck Entertainment with her manager, Narvel Blackstock. He would go on to become her husband. Starstruck currently includes artist management, a state-of-the-art recording studio, and a music publishing company.

Reba also expanded her career to the stage and screen. She co-starred in several TV movies, including *The Gambler Returns: The Luck of the Draw*, and she had leading roles in TV movies such as *Is There Life Out There?*, *Buffalo Girls*, *Forever Love*, and *Secret of Giving*. In 2001, Reba conquered Broadway, starring as Annie Oakley in a revival of *Annie Get Your Gun*. Her work was praised widely by critics and fans alike. She also starred in the popular TV sitcom *Reba* and, more recently, in the comedy series *Malibu Country*.

In the early twenty-first century, Reba began receiving the kind of lifetime honors reserved for the most significant and influential American artists. She was named *Billboard’s* Woman of the Year in 2007 and won the ASCAP Golden Note Award in 2008. In 2011, Reba was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Despite her many successes, Reba continues to be a driven, hard-working artist and business woman.

*The Encyclopedia of Country Music*, Second Edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.



The museum’s educational programs are supported by



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