

WELCOME
BACK

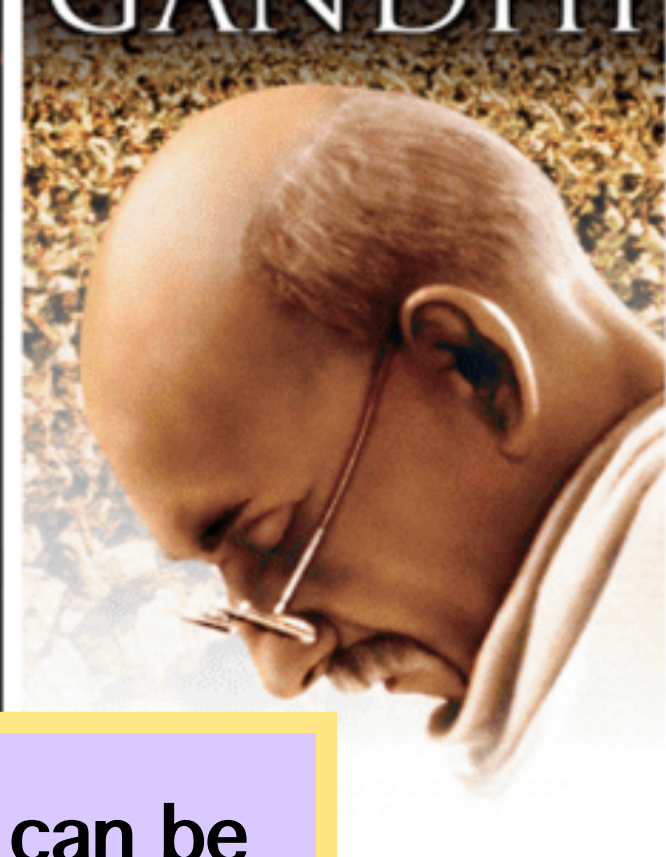
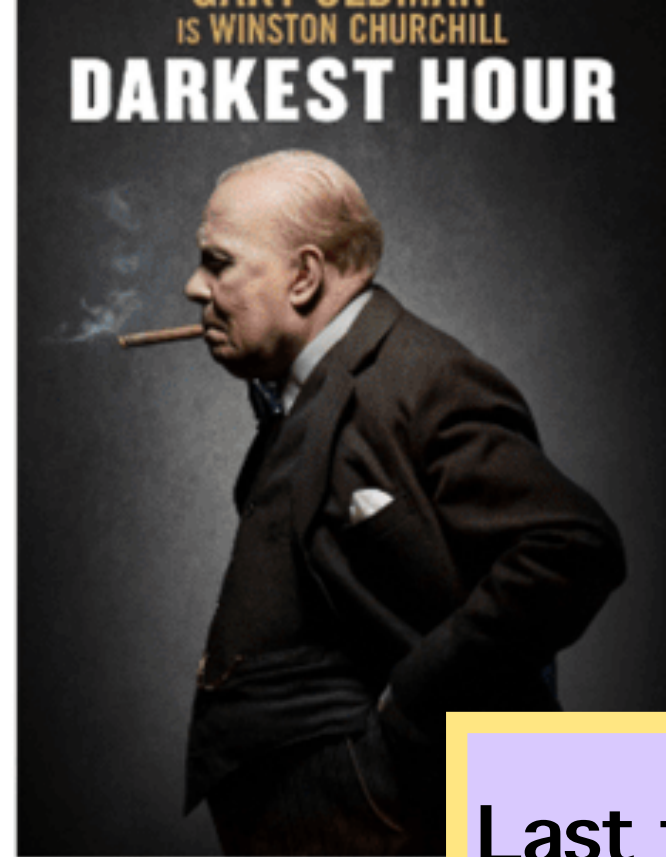
Biographical Soundtrack

Part 2: Tracking The Life Story



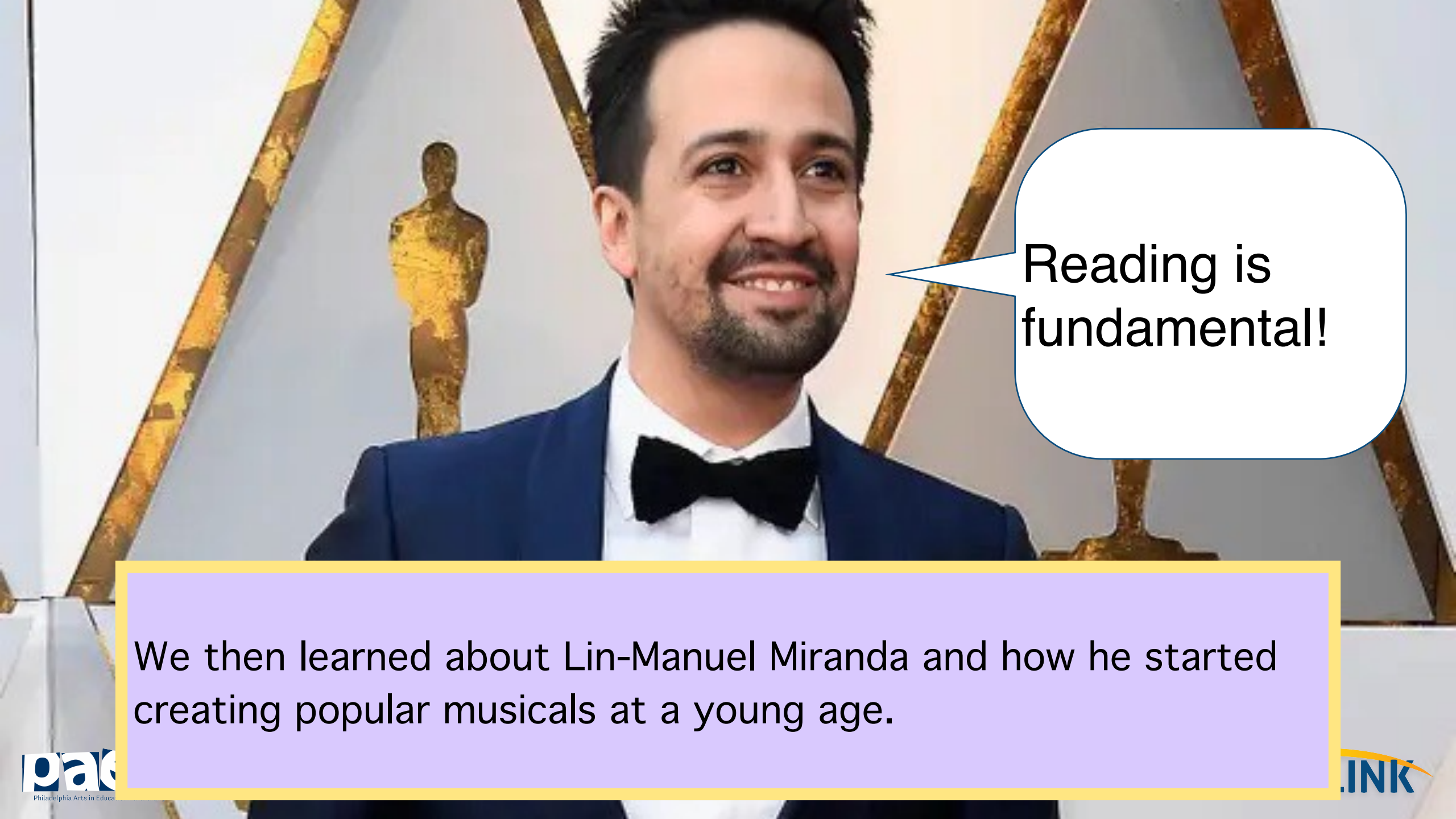
Remember
last time?

Yes, I seem to remember hearing
something about that



Last time we laid out how biographies can be used as a basis for many films and TV shows.

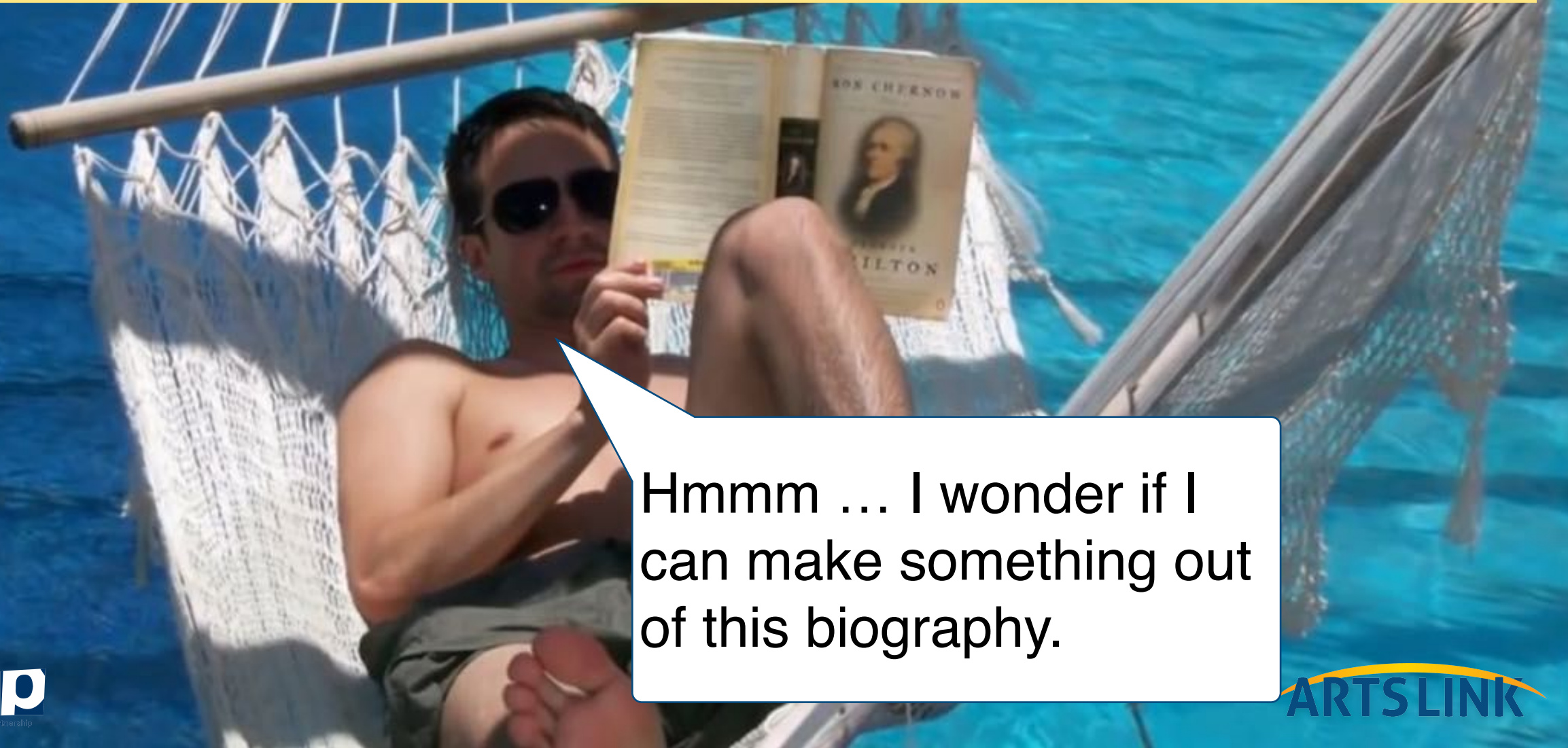




Reading is
fundamental!

We then learned about Lin-Manuel Miranda and how he started creating popular musicals at a young age.

While he was on vacation he read a biography about the founding father Alexander Hamilton and he decided to write some hip hop songs about him. This led him to create...



Hmmm ... I wonder if I can make something out of this biography.



Hamilton: An American Musical! This went on to become one of the top musicals of all time and changed the way a biography can be turned into a play.



I then had the class come up with a song title representing your last birthday. We heard lots of interesting titles. I then gave each group a famous American to research for today's class.

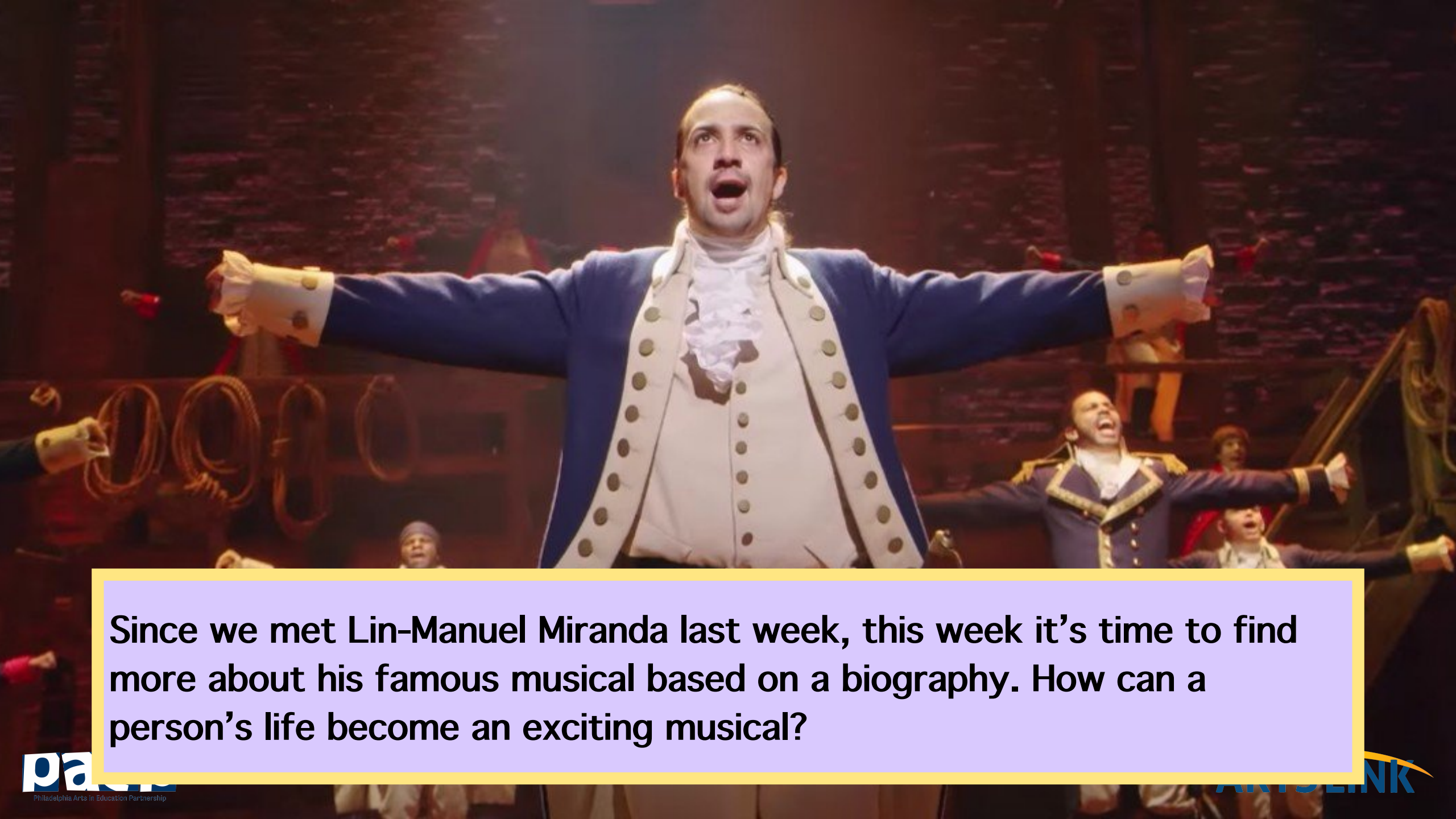
A scene from the Harry Potter movies set in a grand library. In the foreground, Hermione Granger stands on the left, looking towards the center. In the middle ground, Draco Malfoy sits at a desk with his head buried in his hand, appearing stressed. On the right, Harry Potter sits at a desk, wearing glasses and reading a book. The background is filled with bookshelves and large, arched windows. A light blue rectangular sticker with the word 'Vocab!' written in a black, handwritten font is placed over the upper middle part of the image.

Vocab!

SHOW STOPPER



In every musical there is a song or two that might be called a showstopper. This is because the audience claps for so long afterward it literally stops the show from proceeding.

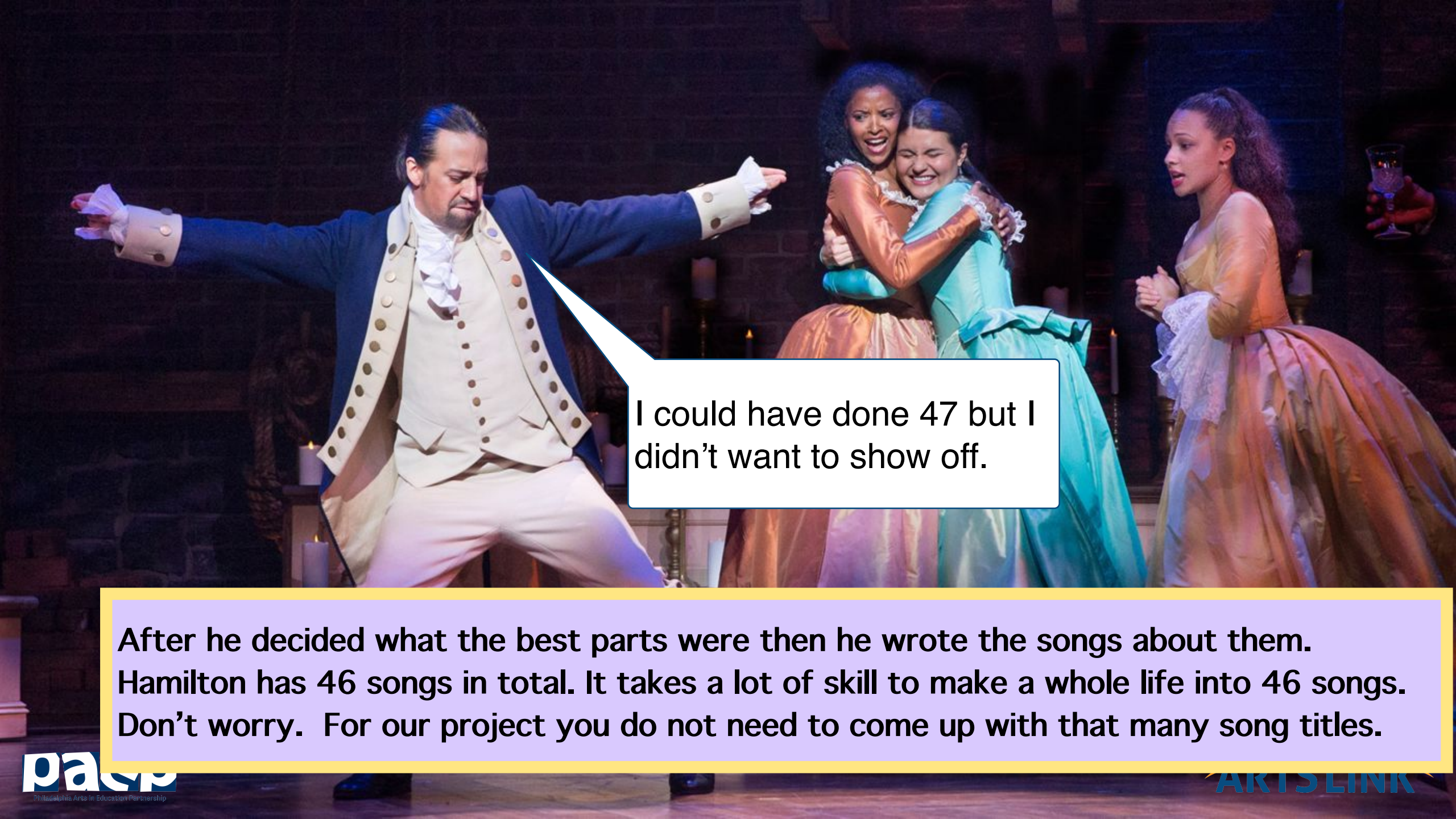


Since we met Lin-Manuel Miranda last week, this week it's time to find more about his famous musical based on a biography. How can a person's life become an exciting musical?

I decided to cut out his time wearing diapers.



Lin-Manuel thought Alexander Hamilton's life was so thrilling he knew it would make for a good play. First he had to pick which parts of his life would be necessary and which he would unfortunately leave out. It's a hard choice to make for writers but it is very necessary. You can't fit a whole person's life in a two hour play.



I could have done 47 but I didn't want to show off.

After he decided what the best parts were then he wrote the songs about them. Hamilton has 46 songs in total. It takes a lot of skill to make a whole life into 46 songs. Don't worry. For our project you do not need to come up with that many song titles.

ACT I

1. ALEXANDER HAMILTON
2. AARON BURR, SIR
3. MY SHOT
4. THE STORY OF TONIGHT
5. THE SCHUYLER SISTERS
6. FARMER REFUTED
7. YOU'LL BE BACK
8. RIGHT HAND MAN
9. A WINTER'S BALL
10. HELPLESS
11. SATISFIED
12. THE STORY OF TONIGHT (REPRISE)
13. WAIT FOR IT
14. STAY ALIVE
15. TEN DUEL COMMANDMENTS
16. MEET ME INSIDE
17. THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH
18. GUNS AND SHIPS
19. HISTORY HAS ITS EYES ON YOU
20. YORKTOWN (THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN)
21. WHAT COMES NEXT?
22. DEAR THEODOSIA
23. NON-STOP

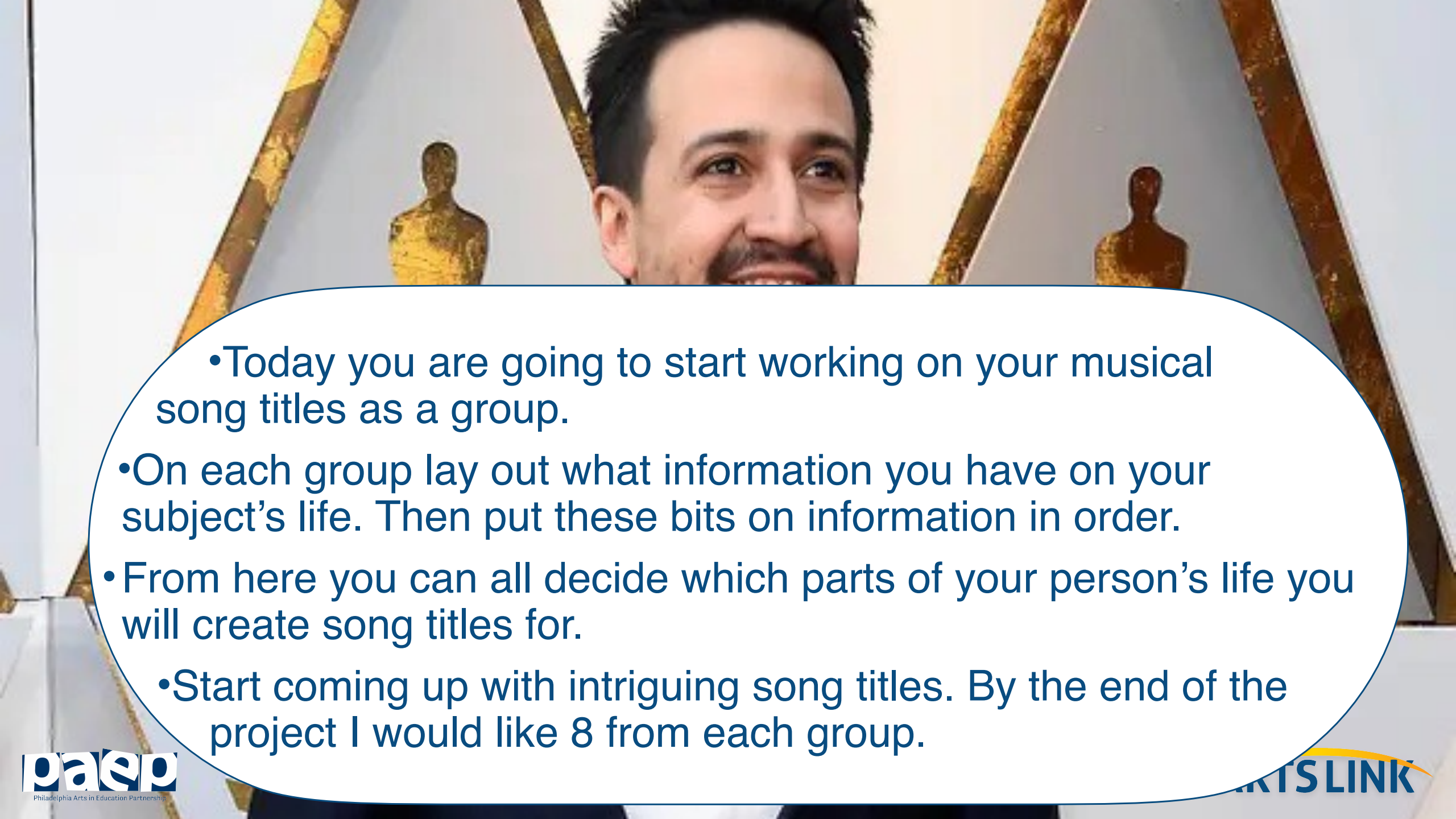
ACT II

1. WHAT'D I MISS
2. CABINET BATTLE #1
3. TAKE A BREAK
4. SAY NO TO THIS
5. THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS
6. SCHUYLER DEFEATED
7. CABINET BATTLE #2
8. WASHINGTON ON YOUR SIDE
9. ONE LAST TIME
10. I KNOW HIM
11. THE ADAMS ADMINISTRATION
12. WE KNOW

As we saw last week, the titles of the songs can have very distinct clues as to what they are about or can be more poetic and mysterious. Either way, the title should make want to know what this song is about. And since this is a life history it's even more intriguing since we as an audience know it is about something from history.



Instructions

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- Today you are going to start working on your musical song titles as a group.
 - On each group lay out what information you have on your subject's life. Then put these bits on information in order.
 - From here you can all decide which parts of your person's life you will create song titles for.
 - Start coming up with intriguing song titles. By the end of the project I would like 8 from each group.