



FEATURE TWO

THEATER THEMES: MUSICALS ABOUT MUSIC

Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 7-9, 11

OBJECTIVES

- Perceive and analyze artistic work. (Re7)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. (Re8)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. (Re9)
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding. (Cn11)

MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (November 2018)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

Ask your students to read “Theater Themes” on pages 10-13. Then, go over the following highlighted words.

[This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]

TREND—change or development in a general direction

DISCRIMINATION—unjustified treatment of different categories of people or things

AFFIRM (AFFIRMATION)—give heightened sense of value

AUDACIOUS—showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks

PIGEONHOLE—a restrictive category

DEBUT—a first appearance or performance

EXPLOIT—a bold or daring feat

MANIFEST—display or show; demonstrate

REPERTOIRE—a stock of pieces that a performer knows

NICHE—a specialized, suitable category or position

DEVELOP

Discuss the concept of a musical about music. Have a conversation with your students about what the benefits and drawbacks might be of using already created music as the soundtrack to a musical.

Benefits could be:

Less work for writers (the music is already written)
Attracts audiences who know and love the artist who made the songs famous

Drawbacks could be:

Old music could be considered less “fun” or “original”
Have to pay for the rights to the songs, which could get expensive

► **Play** “Movin’ Out” by the Original Broadway Cast Recording (Hear the Music **track 3** on *musicalive.com*).

ASK

What’s the time signature of the song? (4/4)

Which instrument introduces the song? (Drumset)

What instruments do you hear throughout the song? (Electric guitar, electric bass, drumset, saxophones, etc.)

How many measures does the electric guitar play before the back-up singers enter with “ooh-ooh” (Four)

What word does the lead vocalist echo with his voice in the first verse? (Heart attack)

CLOSE

Ask students to work with a partner or in a group to come up with a plot line for a musical about music. It could be a story about a musician, a producer, someone famous, or someone ordinary. Bonus points if they can include stories that involve the songs of a famous musician (be sure to clarify how the songs would tie into the storyline). Ask for volunteers to share their ideas.

ASSESS

Did the students read the article?

Did they discuss the song *Movin’ Out*?

Did they work together to come up with an idea for their own musical about music?

November 2018 QUIZ ANSWERS

This month’s quizzes are available at musicalive.com/the-quiz-zone-november-2018. Here are the quiz answers:

MARSHMELLO

1. 2015
2. Wavez
3. Christopher Comstock
4. Skrillex
5. Electronic Dance Music (EDM)
6. 2016
7. DJ Tiësto
8. Anne-Marie
9. *Joytime* and *Joytime II*
10. Miranda Cosgrove