



FEATURE TWO

HAVE YOURSELF A MODERN LITTLE CHRISTMAS

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 (December 2018)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

Ask your students to read "Have Yourself a Modern Little Christmas" on pages 10-13. Then, go over the following highlighted words. [This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]

SLEIGH-FULL—an amount large enough to fill Santa's sleigh!

INTRICATE—very complicated or detailed

COMPILATION—a thing that is put together by assembling previously separate items

BARITONE—an adult male singing voice between tenor and bass (the second lowest in musical pitch)

DESCENDING—moving or falling downward

SENTIMENTAL—prompted by feelings of tenderness

TRADEMARK—a distinctive characteristic or object

UNREQUITED—(of a feeling, especially love) not returned or rewarded

MELANCHOLY—a feeling of pensive sadness

DEVELOP - (GAMETIME!)

Have students write down as many Christmas/holiday songs they can in 2 minutes, trying to have as many songs on their list that they think nobody else will have on theirs. (The person who writes down the most unique songs will win.)

-Time the activity for 2 minutes.

-When time is up, have volunteers share which songs they wrote down

-Write each song on the board as they are read, and tell the class if another person calls out a song that is on their own paper, put an "X" through it

-The person who has the most remaining songs on their sheet "wins."

► Play the video or studio recording of

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" by Straight No Chaser

(Hear the Music **track 7** at musicalive.com)

ASK

How many different songs can you count?

(Nine)

► 3. Play "White Christmas (Kaskade Remix)"

by Bing Crosby (Hear the Music **track 8** at musicalive.com)

ASK

What elements did the DJ add to the song?

(Synth, a bass line, drum set)

► 4. Play "Cold December Night" by Michael Bublé

(Hear the Music **track 9** at musicalive.com)

ASK

How does this original song compare to other holiday songs you know? Would you rather listen to this or a more traditional carol?

CLOSE

Ask students to work together to create their own "remixes."

As a class, select 3-5 songs that everyone is allowed to use (examples: Deck the Halls, Jingle Bells, White Christmas and Twelve Days of Christmas). Students may only use words found in those songs, but can rearrange them in any way they wish to create a set of lyrics for a new song.

Example:

I'm dreaming of jingle holly

And a partridge making spirits bright

Deck the halls with five golden rings just like the ones I used to know

Where the french hens glisten

And the swans a swimming listen to hear

A one horse open sleigh

ASSESS

Did the students read the article?

Did they listen and answer questions about the songs played?

Did they work together to create a holiday "remix"?