



SONG OF THE MONTH

“WHAT IFs” BY KANE BROWN

Meets National Core Arts Standards 7-9

OBJECTIVES

- Perceive and analyze artistic work (Re7)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work (Re8)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (Re9)

MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (November 2018)
- *Music Alive!* Classroom Worksheet #12: Staff Paper (download at musicalive.com)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access
- Classroom keyboards or other instruments

START

1. Ask students to read the text on pages 14-15 on their own
2. Have one of the students read aloud the text on page 16
3. Play Kane Brown’s “What Ifs” (*Hear the Music track 1 on musicalive.com*), while the students read through the notation on pages 16-17

DEVELOP

Ask students questions about the notation:

- How many flats are in the key signature? (2.)
- So what key is it in? (Bb—G minor.)
- Would you describe the rhythm as fast or slow? (Fast.)
- What is the only note in measure 4 (beginning of Verse 1)? (C—in the middle of the staff.)
- How many measures long is the intro? (Three.)

- What instruments do you hear? (Electric guitar, drum set, electric bass, banjo.)
- What two kinds of notes make up the measure right before the Chorus? (One quarter note, one quarter rest, four eighth notes.)
- What instruments are primarily heard during the breakdown? (Slide guitar, electric guitar, electric bass, banjo.)
- What genre of music would you characterize this song as? (Country, pop, rock.)
- Do you like this song? Why or why not? (Subjective.)

CLOSE

Hand out the staff paper worksheet to students, or have them use notation software. Have them transcribe the last measure of the “Pre-Chorus.” This is a rhythm including quarter and eighth notes. Make sure to discuss the difference between notes with and without a “flag” (difference between quarter notes and eighth notes), and what fraction of the beat they occupy.



ASSESS

- Did the students follow along with “What Ifs”?
- Did they answer the discussion questions?
- Did they transcribe the song’s instrumental part?

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Crossword Puzzle can be found on page 7

