



FEATURE

UNIQUE GENIUS: BEETHOVEN AT 250

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 (Vol.39 No.5)
- BeethovenWord Search (download at musicalive.com)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

Ask your students to read “Unique Genius: Beethoven at 250” on pages 10-13. Then, go over the following highlighted words. [This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]

MAESTRO—a distinguished musician

VIRTUOSO—a person highly skilled in music

MODEST—not excessively large, elaborate or expensive

SONATA—a composition for an instrumental soloist, often with a piano accompaniment

BOUT—a short period of intense activity

IMPENDING—about to happen

IMMORTAL—deserving to be remembered forever

LOWLY—low in status or importance

DYNAMIC—characterized by contact change, activity or progress

SOCIOPOLITICAL—combining social and political factors

INCONCLUSIVE—not leading to a firm conclusion

TEMPERAMENTAL—liable to unreasonable changes of mood

HYPERSENSITIVE—abnormally or excessively sensitive

AUGMENTED—having been made greater in size or value

HUB—the effective center of an activity, region or network

DEVELOP

Review concepts from the article by asking the following questions:

What were some of Beethoven’s defining individual characteristics?

Which other composer did he study with, and which other composer’s music did he study?

What happened to his music as he grew deaf?

At what age did he die? Did he have a simple or complicated life?

What was notable about his physical appearance?

How early on in his life was his musical talent recognized?

Between which two musical periods did Beethoven bridge the gap?

What is one example of a celebration that will be had in his honor this year?

2. Listen to each of Beethoven’s hits from the Hear the Music and Extended Play playlists (“Symphony No. 3,” “Moonlight Sonata,” “Symphony No. 5,” “Für Elise,” and “Ode to Joy”).

What do you like about each of the pieces?

What is unique about each one and what sounds similar?

Which of them have you heard before?

CLOSE

Have students fill out the BeethovenWord Search to enhance word association.

ASSESS

Did the students read the article?

Did they review the vocabulary words?

Did they answer the supplemental questions?

Did they fill out the word search?