



SONG OF THE MONTH

“COUNTING STARS” BY ONEREPUBLIC

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 (Vol.39 No.7)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

1. Ask students to read the text on pages 14-16 on their own
2. Have one of the students read aloud the text on page 16
3. **Play** OneRepublic’s “Counting Stars” (*Hear the Music track 1 on musicalive.com*), while the students read through the notation on pages 17-18

DEVELOP

Ask students about the story:

Who were the first two founding members of OneRepublic?

The band’s song “Apologize” was not well received at first. What eventually made the song popular?

Which of their songs is their most popular and what kind of milestones has it achieved?

Why did the band take a break from touring in 2017?

What is the title of the band’s latest album?

Which of their songs from the new album was written while the band was in quarantine?

What is special about the music video for their song “Better Days?”

How is OneRepublic supporting those struggling during the pandemic? (Hint: They are doing so in more than one way).

2. Ask students questions about the song/notation:

Which OneRepublic album is “Counting Stars” from?

What is the highest certification the song has received?

Where did Tedder compose the song and what inspired him to write it?

How many sharps are in the key signature?

What key is the song in?

What instruments are heard at the beginning of the song?

What happens on the 10th measure?

What instruments are heard during the instrumental break?

What is this song about?

Is this song fast or slow?

How does it make you feel?

Why do you think it makes you feel that way?

Which part of the song is your favorite and why?

CLOSE

Watch the music videos for “Counting Stars” and “Better Days.” How does each video capture the essence of the lyrical content of the songs?

Discuss: Ryan Tedder explains to Billboard the inspiration behind the lyrics of “Counting Stars.”

“A lot of times I just lay in bed awake, stressing out. Everybody does it. And I just thought, I can’t wait until I’m counting stars and not counting dollars anymore. Things will be so much better.”

What do you think he means by this and why is it an important message?

Discuss: The music video for “Better Days” shows a lot of clips. Which ones resonate with you the most and why? Do you think this video was successful in sharing its intended message?

ASSESS

Did the students follow along with the song?

Did they answer the discussion questions?

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Crossword Puzzle can be found on page 7

