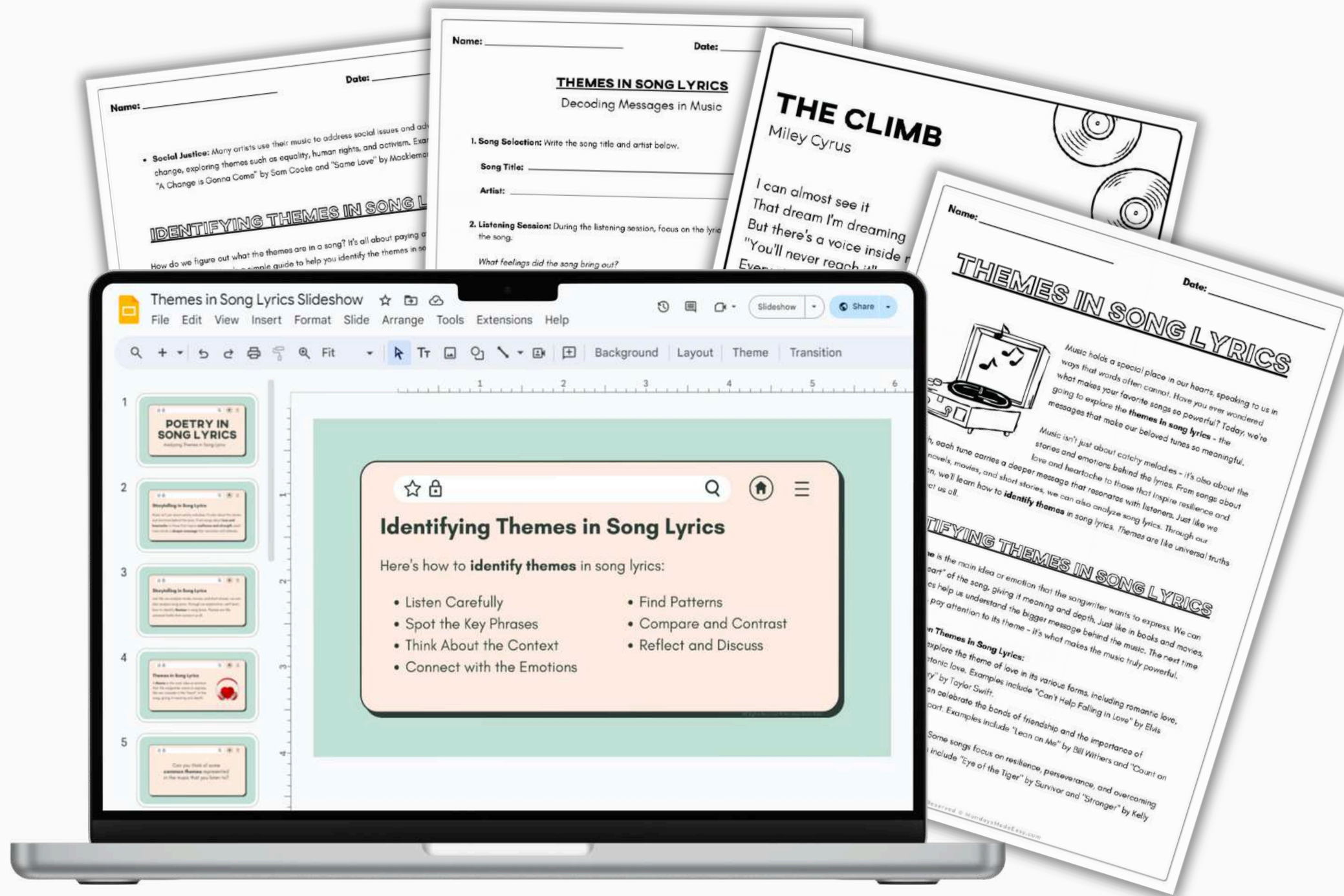


Poetry Analysis Through Song Lyrics

This song lyric analysis lesson connects your language arts curriculum with your students' personal interests



- Explore diverse themes through contemporary song lyrics from popular artists, fostering student **engagement** and **connection** to modern music.
- Guide students with interactive materials including a slideshow, handouts, and application activities to support their **understanding of poetry** in lyrics.
- Encourage creativity and expression with a varied assignment, allowing students to demonstrate their **application of close reading**.

Teach students how to identify themes in song lyrics!

PURCHASE HERE

See what others are saying...

Here's what teachers like you are loving about this **Themes in Song Lyrics Lesson!**

 **Extremely Satisfied**

LOVED LOVED LOVED! This was one of my favorite lessons I did all year. My kids loved learning about poetry through music. I love music as well and I was wanting to do this lesson for awhile. I did not think anyone had ever made this before and then I found it and was like YAY! Will continue to do for a long time.

– Kirsten E.

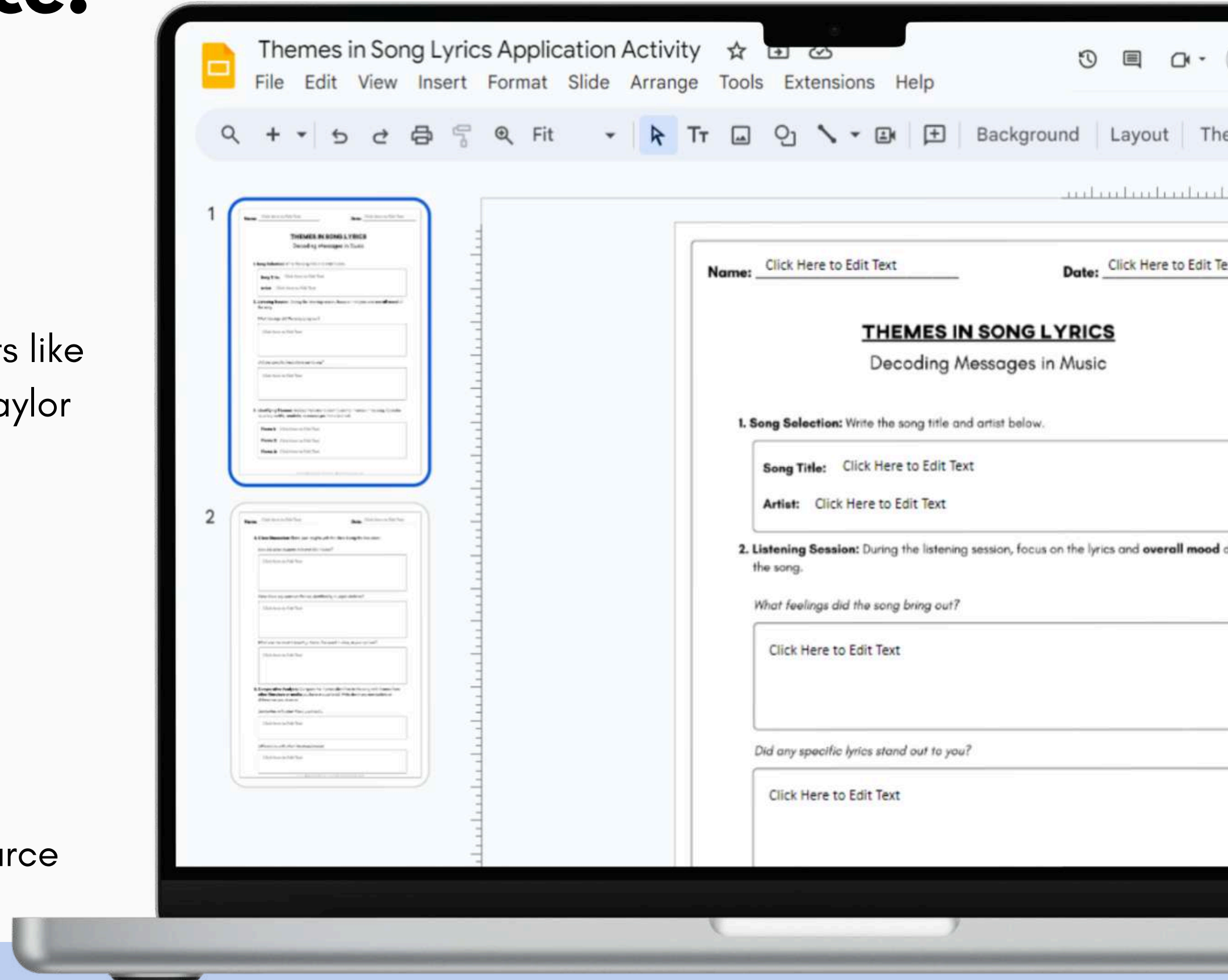
 **Extremely Satisfied**

Poetry isn't something most teenagers are interested in until you explain that almost all music lyrics are based in poetry...this unit helped me guide my students through discovering literary devices in their favorite songs!

– DeLana M.

Included with this resource:

- ✔ Poetry in Song Lyrics **Slideshow Lesson**
- ✔ Themes in Song Lyrics **Informational Handout**
- ✔ 8 Song Lyrics for **Theme Analysis**
 - Identify themes in modern music from artists like Miley Cyrus, Tears for Fears, Ed Sheeran, Taylor Swift, and more!
- ✔ **Application Activity** for Any Song
- ✔ Creative Expression **Assignment Outline**
- ✔ Editable and Ready-to-Print **4-Level Rubric**
- ✔ **Teacher Instructions** for how to use this resource



Includes Digital Version for Google Drive®

Themes in Song Lyrics Slideshow Lesson

This presentation demonstrates how song lyrics can convey powerful themes

Can you think of some **common themes** represented in the music that you listen to?

Themes in Song Lyrics

A **theme** is the main idea or emotion that the songwriter wants to express. We can consider it the “heart” of the song, giving it meaning and depth.



POETRY IN SONG LYRICS

Analyzing Themes in Song Lyrics

Examples of Common Themes in Song Lyrics

Love

Many songs explore the theme of love in its various forms, including romantic love, familial love, and platonic love.

Friendship

Songs often celebrate the bonds of friendship and the importance of companionship and support.

Overcoming Obstacles

Some songs focus on resilience, perseverance, and overcoming challenges in life.

Social Justice

Many artists use their music to address social issues and advocate for change, exploring themes such as equality, human rights, and activism.

Application Activity with Song Lyric Examples

These worksheets prompt students to **identify** and **analyze central themes, symbols,** and **messages** in any song lyrics that they wish to explore

Name: _____ Date: _____

• **Social Justice:** Many artists use their music to address social issues and advocate change, exploring themes such as equality, human rights, and activism. Examples include "A Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke and "Same Love" by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.

IDENTIFYING THEMES IN SONG LYRICS

How do we figure out what the themes are in a song? It's all about paying attention and looking for clues. Here's a simple guide to help you identify the themes in song lyrics:

- **Listen Carefully:** Start by really listening to the words of the song. Pay attention to the words they make you feel and what images they bring to mind.
- **Spot the Key Phrases:** Look out for phrases or lines that seem important or stand out. These could be hints about the theme of the song.
- **Think About the Context:** Consider who wrote the song and what might have inspired them. Sometimes knowing a bit about the artist can give you insight into the themes they explore.
- **Connect with the Emotions:** Music is all about feeling, so tune into the emotions the song stirs. How do the lyrics make you feel? Happy, sad, hopeful?
- **Find Patterns:** Keep an eye out for recurring words or ideas. These could be clues that point towards the theme of the song.
- **Compare and Contrast:** Think about other songs or pieces of literature that explore similar themes. Comparing different works can help you see the bigger picture.
- **Reflect and Discuss:** Finally, take some time to think about what the themes mean to you. Chat with friends or family about the song and see if they have any insights to share.

Themes in song lyrics are like hidden treasures waiting to be discovered. They're the messages that make us stop and think, and the emotions that stick with us long after the music fades away. The next time you're listening to your favorite song, take a moment to listen to the lyrics and uncover the themes that make it special. You might just find a new appreciation for the power of music.

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THE CLIMB

Miley Cyrus



I can almost see it
That dream I'm dreaming
But there's a voice inside my head sayin'
"You'll never reach it"
Every step I'm takin'
Every move I make feels lost with no direction
My faith is shakin'

But I, I gotta keep tryin'
Gotta keep my head held high

There's always gonna be another mountain
I'm always gonna wanna make it move
Always gonna be an uphill battle
Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose
Ain't about how fast I get there
Ain't about what's waitin' on the other side
It's the climb



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Name: _____ Date: _____

THEMES IN SONG LYRICS

Decoding Messages in Music

1. **Song Selection:** Write the song title and artist below.

Song Title: _____

Artist: _____

2. **Listening Session:** During the listening session, focus on the lyrics and **overall mood** of the song.

What feelings did the song bring out?

Did any specific lyrics stand out to you?

3. **Identifying Themes:** Analyze the lyrics to identify central themes in the song. Consider recurring **motifs, symbols, or messages** that stand out.

Theme 1: _____


Theme 2: _____

Theme 3: _____

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Name: _____ Date: _____

THEMES IN SONG LYRICS



Music holds a special place in our hearts, speaking to us in ways that words often cannot. Have you ever wondered what makes your favorite songs so powerful? Today, we're going to explore the **themes in song lyrics** - the messages that make our beloved tunes so meaningful.

Music isn't just about catchy melodies - it's also about the stories and emotions behind the lyrics. From songs about love and heartache to those that inspire resilience and strength, each tune carries a deeper message that resonates with listeners. Just like we analyze novels, movies, and short stories, we can also analyze song lyrics. Through our exploration, we'll learn how to **identify themes** in song lyrics. *Themes* are like universal truths that connect us all.

IDENTIFYING THEMES IN SONG LYRICS

In songs, a **theme** is the main idea or emotion that the songwriter wants to express. We can consider it the "heart" of the song, giving it meaning and depth. Just like in books and movies, themes in song lyrics help us understand the bigger message behind the music. The next time you listen to a song, pay attention to its theme - it's what makes the music truly powerful.

Examples of Common Themes in Song Lyrics:

- **Love:** Many songs explore the theme of love in its various forms, including romantic love, familial love, and platonic love. Examples include "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley and "Love Story" by Taylor Swift.
- **Friendship:** Songs often celebrate the bonds of friendship and the importance of companionship and support. Examples include "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers and "Count on Me" by Bruno Mars.
- **Overcoming Obstacles:** Some songs focus on resilience, perseverance, and overcoming challenges in life. Examples include "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor and "Stronger" by Kelly Clarkson.

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Engage students in **practicing analysis** activities to apply their knowledge



Informational Handout for Independent Analysis

Students can use the informational handout to reference the **definition** and **examples** while they analyze themes in song lyrics

Name: _____ Date: _____

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This handout provides **key information and concepts** covered in the lesson!

Includes Editable 4-Level Rubric

Modify this rubric to meet the unique needs of your classroom!

Name: _____ Grade (%) _____

Creative Expression Assignment: 4-Level Rubric

Category	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Knowledge	Approaching success in identifying themes	Identifies themes with some success	Successfully identifies multiple themes	Skillfully identifies multiple themes
	Limited understanding of main ideas See comments below	Demonstrates some understanding of main ideas See comments below	Demonstrates understanding of main ideas	Demonstrates extended understanding of the complexities of main ideas
Inquiry	Approaching success in interpreting or analyzing themes See comments below	Interprets and analyzes themes with some success See comments below	Successfully interprets and analyzes themes with clarity, offering thoughtful reflections and connections	Skillfully interprets and analyzes themes, providing insightful connections and reflections
	Approaching success in organization of essay; grammar and mechanics require revision	Essay is organized with some success; some errors with grammar and mechanics	Essay is successfully organized with nearly flawless grammar and mechanics	Essay is skillfully organized with flawless grammar and mechanics
Communication	Approaching success in employing figurative language, imagery, and poetic devices to convey the essence of the themes	Poem employs figurative language, imagery, and poetic devices to convey the essence of the themes with some success	Poem successfully employs figurative language, imagery, and poetic devices to convey the essence of the themes	Poem skillfully employs figurative language, imagery, and poetic devices to convey the essence of the themes
	Communication of the dominant theme in visual representation is approaching success See comments below	Visual representation communicates the dominant theme with some success; exhibits moderate complexity or depth in artistic execution See comments below	Visual representation communicates the dominant theme successfully, utilizing artistic techniques with proficiency	Visual representation effectively communicates the dominant theme, utilizing various artistic techniques with exceptional skill
Application	Limited connections between themes and personal experiences or broader contexts See comments below	Moderate understanding of how themes relate to personal experiences and broader contexts See comments below	Demonstrates an understanding of how themes may apply to personal experiences and broader contexts	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of how themes resonate in various contexts

Comments: _____

Creative Expression Assignment: 4-Level Rubric

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Name: _____ Grade (%) _____

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	Communication of the dominant theme in visual representation is approaching success See comments below	Visual representation communicates the dominant theme with some success; exhibits moderate complexity or depth in artistic execution See comments below	Visual representation communicates the dominant theme successfully, utilizing artistic techniques with proficiency	Visual representation effectively communicates the dominant theme, utilizing various artistic techniques with exceptional skill
Application	Limited connections between themes and personal experiences or broader contexts See comments below	Moderate understanding of how themes relate to personal experiences and broader contexts See comments below	Demonstrates an understanding of how themes may apply to personal experiences and broader contexts	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of how themes resonate in various contexts

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