

# Theme in Music

## THEME IN MUSIC: Song Portfolio

**PREWRITE:** This activity will help you plan the three parts of your article: analysis, and the conclusion. Pay attention to how the songs each differently, and use specific lyrics from the songs to support your idea.

### INTRODUCE

In one sentence, summarize the theme that your songs have in common.

### ANALYZE

Song	
Describe the speaker. What is he/she like?	

## THEME IN MUSIC: Song Portfolio

**TASK:** You work for a major entertainment blog and have been told to write an article about several different songs that have a common theme. You should select a theme or main idea, and then find at least three (school-appropriate) songs that share this theme. Your final article should include an introduction, an analysis of the theme in each song (at least one paragraph for each), and a conclusion. You may also include one image (drawing or photo) for each song.

### BRAINSTORMING

Remember, the **theme** is the lesson or viewpoint that the author wants to share with us. It is the message or the main idea.

### TRY THIS:

Think of one song for each of the themes listed below.

1. Loss - \_\_\_\_\_
2. Youth - \_\_\_\_\_
3. Moving on - \_\_\_\_\_

### NOW, MAKE A LIST:

List five different...



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# INDEPENDENT WRITING ACTIVITY

# THEME IN MUSIC: *Song Portfolio*

**PREWRITE:** This activity will help you plan the three parts of your article: the introduction, the analysis, and the conclusion. Pay attention to how the songs each treat the theme a little differently, and use specific lyrics from the songs to support your ideas.

In one sentence, summarize the theme that your songs have in common:

## INTRODUCE

## ANALYZE

Song		
Describe the speaker. What is he/she like?		
List three symbols or images from the song and why they're important.		
What figurative language (simile, allusion, metaphor, etc.) does the song use?		
How do these details help you understand the theme?		

## CONCLUDE

In what ways are the speakers' attitudes toward the theme different? Why is that different idea about a theme?

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Your final article should include an introduction, an analysis of the theme in each song (at least one paragraph for each), and a conclusion. You may also include one image (drawing or photo) for each song.

## BRAINSTORMING

Remember, the **theme** is the lesson or viewpoint that the author wants to share with us. It is the message or the main idea.

### TRY THIS:

Think of one song for each of the themes listed below.

1. Loss - \_\_\_\_\_
2. Youth - \_\_\_\_\_
3. Moving on - \_\_\_\_\_

### NOW, MAKE A LIST:

List five different songs you like and consider their main idea. If you had to summarize the idea of the song in one sentence, what would it be?

Song	Main Idea / Theme

### CHOOSE A THEME:

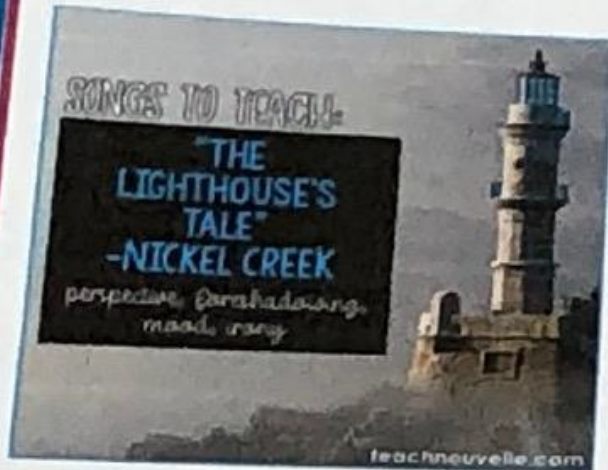
Choose one of the themes above and find two more songs that share this theme. Keep in mind, the singers' opinions on the theme don't have to be exactly the same.

Other songs:

Students analyze a common theme as presented in three different songs.

# SONGS TO USE IN ELA: *Three Favorites*

Want to expose students to new songs, or make them think about old songs in a completely new way? Using music in the classroom is a great way to engage students and let them analyze a different sort of text. On my blog, I recommend [15 Songs to Use in ELA](#). Here are three that work for middle and high school:



## 1. "The Lighthouse's Tale" by Nickel Creek

"I am a lighthouse, worn by the weather and the waves,  
I keep my lamp lit, to warn the sailors on their way.  
I'll tell a story, paint you a picture from my past,  
I was so happy, but joy in this life seldom lasts."

This is a song my students tackle during the song analysis lesson in our Short Stories Unit. This sad song is sung from the perspective of a lighthouse, and you can pretty much tell from these first few lines that it's going to be a downer. **This is a great song to analyze for perspective, foreshadowing, conflict, and mood.**

## 2. "Girl in a Country Song" by Maddie & Tae

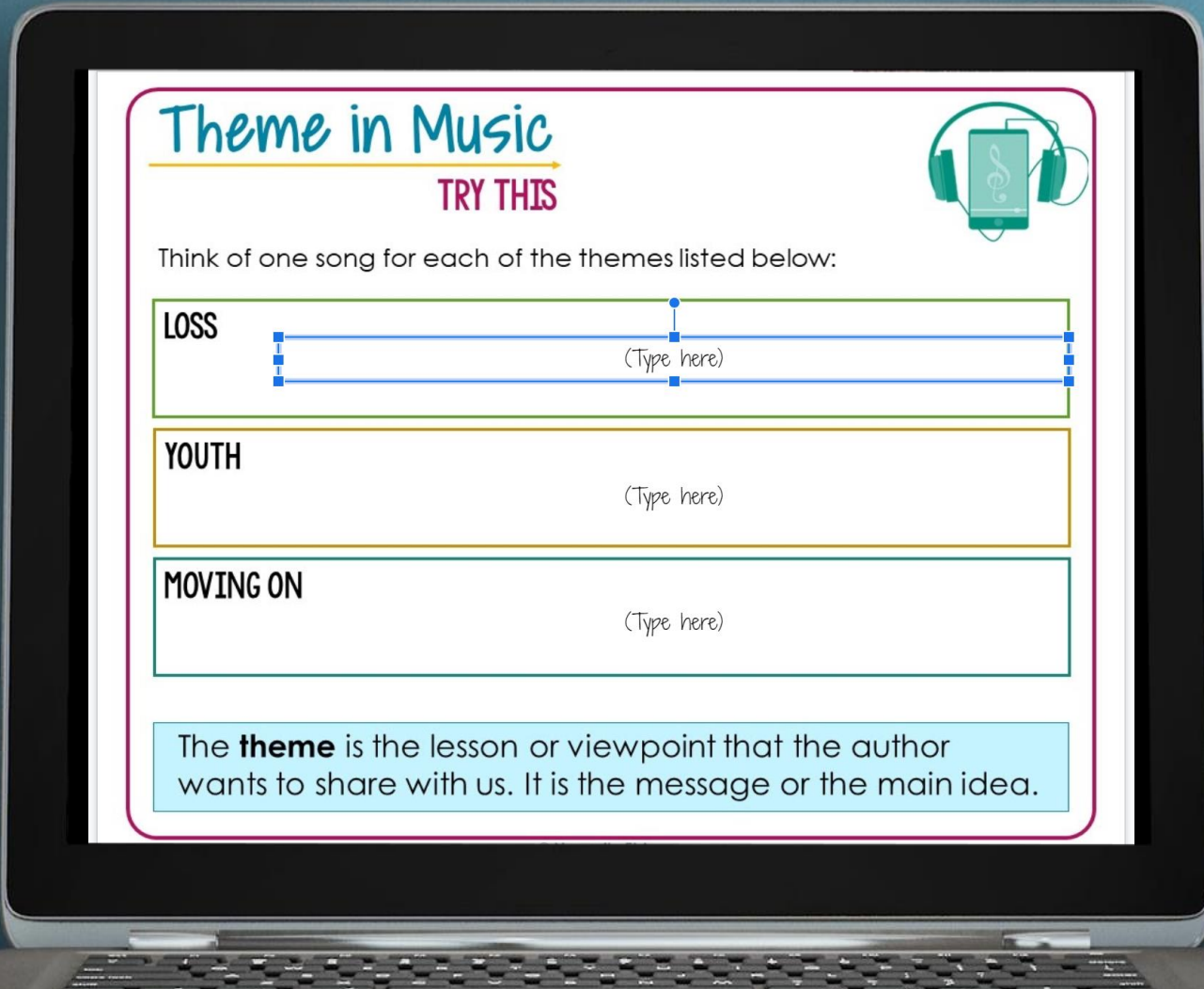
"Bein' the girl in a country song  
How in the world did it go so wrong?"

Like all we're good for  
is looking good for you and you're  
Nothing more


Perfect for:

\*Emergency/Sub Plans \*Summer Packets \*Enrichment





### Theme in Music ANALYZE




Song	(Type here)	(Type here)	(Type here)
Describe the speaker. What are they like?	(Type here)	(Type here)	(Type here)
List three symbols or images from the song and why they're important.	(Type here)	(Type here)	(Type here)

### Theme in Music RUBRIC

#### SONG PORTFOLIO

(Student's Name Here) \_\_\_\_\_ :

Drag and drop these circles over the score

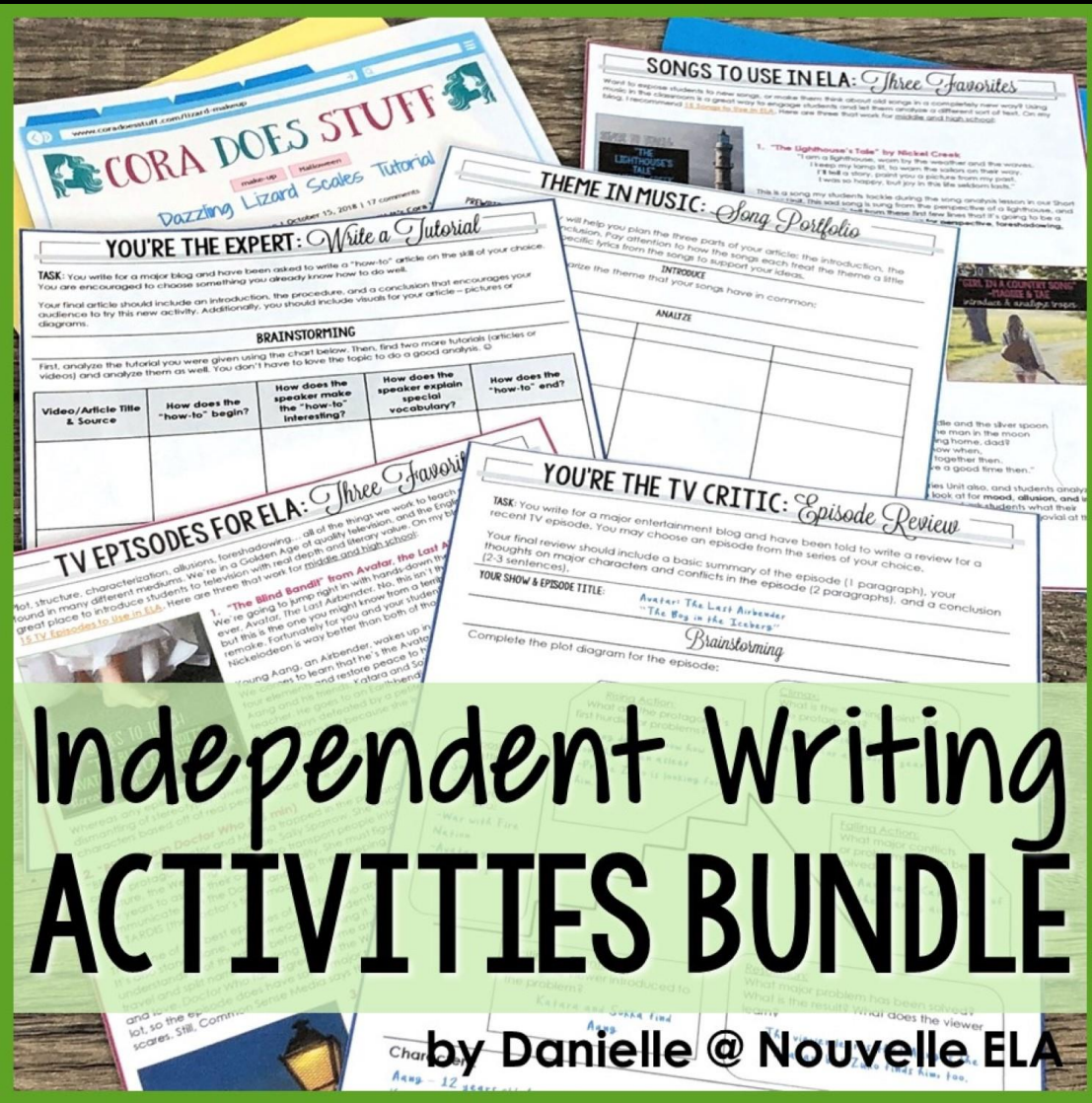


Completed the brainstorming and prewriting activities.	5 Completely	4 Mostly	3 Not really
Understands the theme, symbols, and figurative language in these songs.	5 Completely	4 Mostly	3 Not really
Wrote their article in a creative and engaging way.	5 Very well	4 Pretty well	3 Needs more practice
Proofread for spelling and grammar.	5 Very well	4 Pretty well	3 No
Has a final copy that looks polished and neat.	5 Absolutely!	4 Somewhat	3 Not yet

**Final Score:** ?? / 25 x 4 = ?? %

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