

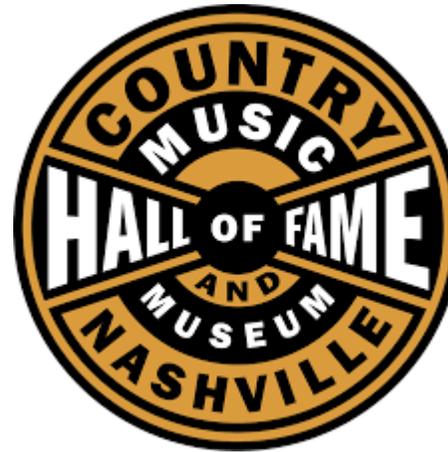
# WORDS & MUSIC<sup>SM</sup>

TEACH LANGUAGE ARTS THROUGH LYRIC WRITING

## SONGWRITING 101 LESSON 1



**CreatiVets**





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## OBJECTIVES

- Learn the fundamentals of songwriting
- Co-write an original song



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## PARTS OF A SONG



## BRAINSTORM

List everything you know about the **parts of a song**  
in one minute.

Ready... set... **GO!**



## Let's explore the different parts of a song!

- The **title** is the name of the song.
- The **theme** is the main subject of the song.
- The **hook** is the part of the song that catches, or “hooks,” a listener’s attention and makes the song easy to remember. The **title** and hook are often the same and the hook is usually repeated throughout the song.



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- The **verse** communicates the details of the song, such as, who, what, when, where, why, and how. Songs usually have multiple verses.
- The **chorus** conveys the main subject, or **theme** of the song. The chorus is usually simpler than the **verses** and often contains the **title**. The chorus is repeated throughout the song.



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- The **bridge** introduces a twist or new idea. It usually occurs toward the song's end, and it has a different melody from the **verses** and **chorus**. Note: not all songs have a bridge.



## LISTEN



### “The House That Built Me”

Written by Tom Douglas and Allen Shamblin  
Performed by Miranda Lambert

Listen to the song and identify the **parts of the song!**



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I know they say you can't go home again  
I just had to come back one last time  
Ma'am I know you don't know me from Adam  
But these hand prints on the front steps are mine  
Up those stairs, in that little back bedroom  
Is where I did my homework and I learned to play guitar  
And I bet you didn't know, under that live oak  
My favorite dog is buried in the yard

I thought if I could touch this place or feel it  
This brokenness inside me might start healing  
Out here it's like I'm someone else  
I thought that maybe I could find myself  
If I could just come in I swear I'll leave  
Won't take nothing but a memory  
From the house that built me

Mama cut out pictures of houses for years  
From 'Better Homes and Garden' magazines  
Plans were drawn, and concrete poured,  
And nail by nail and board by board  
Daddy gave life to mama's dream

I thought if I could touch this place or feel it  
This brokenness inside me might start healing  
Out here it's like I'm someone else  
I thought that maybe I could find myself  
If I could just come in I swear I'll leave  
Won't take nothing but a memory  
From the house that built me

You leave home, you move on and you do the best you can  
I got lost in this old world and forgot who I am

I thought if I could touch this place or feel it  
This brokenness inside me might start healing  
Out here it's like I'm someone else  
I thought that maybe I could find myself  
If I could walk around I swear I'll leave  
Won't take nothing but a memory  
From the house that, built me

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I know they say you can't go home again  
I just had to come back one last time  
Ma'am I know you don't know me from Adam  
But these hand prints on the front steps are mine  
Up those stairs, in that little back bedroom  
Is where I did my homework and I learned to play guitar  
And I bet you didn't know, under that live oak  
My favorite dog is buried in the yard

**Verse**

I thought if I could touch this place or feel it  
This brokenness inside me might start healing  
Out here it's like I'm someone else  
I thought that maybe I could find myself  
If I could just come in I swear I'll leave  
Won't take nothing but a memory  
From the house that built me

**Chorus**

Mama cut out pictures of houses for years  
From 'Better Homes and Garden' magazines  
Plans were drawn, and concrete poured,  
And nail by nail and board by board  
Daddy gave life to mama's dream

**Verse**

I thought if I could touch this place or feel it  
This brokenness inside me might start healing  
Out here it's like I'm someone else  
I thought that maybe I could find myself  
If I could just come in I swear I'll leave  
Won't take nothing but a memory  
From the house that built me

**Chorus**

You leave home, you move on and you do the best you can  
I got lost in this old world and forgot who I am

**Bridge**

I thought if I could touch this place or feel it  
This brokenness inside me might start healing  
Out here it's like I'm someone else  
I thought that maybe I could find myself  
If I could walk around I swear I'll leave  
Won't take nothing but a memory  
From the house that, built me

**Chorus**

## “The House That Built Me”

I know they say you can't go home again  
I just had to come back one last time  
Ma'am I know you don't know me from Adam  
But these hand prints on the front steps are mine  
Up those stairs, in that little back bedroom  
Is where I did my homework and I learned to play guitar  
And I bet you didn't know, under that live oak  
My favorite dog is buried in the yard

I thought if I could touch this place or feel it  
This brokenness inside me might start healing  
Out here it's like I'm someone else  
I thought that maybe I could find myself  
If I could just come in I swear I'll leave  
Won't take nothing but a memory  
From **the house that built me**

### Discuss:

- How is the **title** used in this song?
- What makes the **title** memorable?
- What is the relationship between the **title**, **hook**, and **chorus**?

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## RHYME



## ACTIVITY

Rhymes occur when words at the end of two or more lines in a song share the same or a similar sound.

An **exact rhyme** has the same ending sound.

Like “last,” “past,” and “fast.”

An **approximate rhyme** sounds like a rhyme depending on how the artist sings the words.

Like “age,” “fade,” and “play.”

## ACTIVITY

A **rhyme scheme** describes the pattern of rhyming words at the end of lines in a song.

To identify the **rhyme scheme**:

- Use **A** for the first line.
- For any other lines that rhyme with it, also label **A**.
- If a line does not rhyme with **A**, label it **B**.

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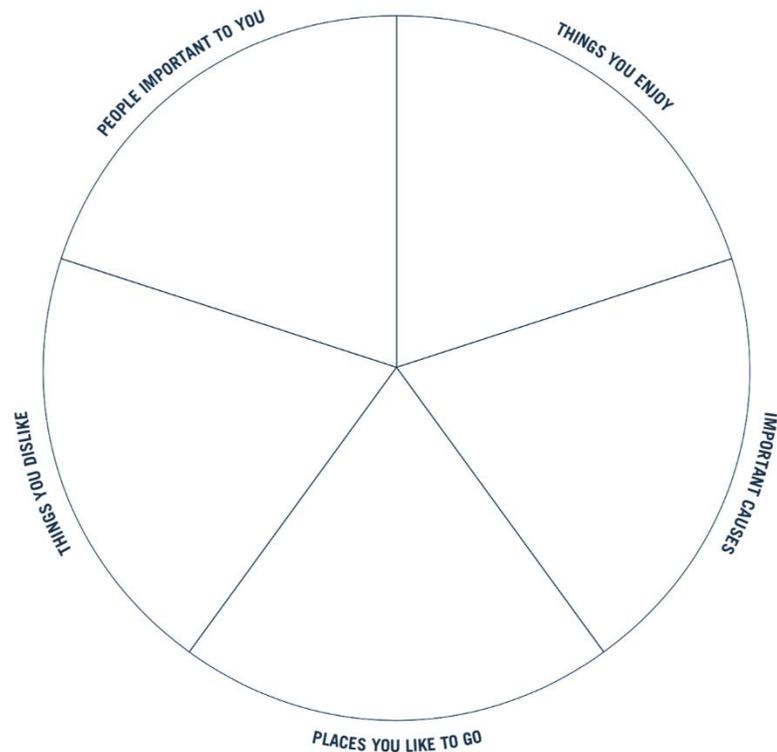
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What is the rhyme scheme in the **verse** and **chorus**?

I know they say you can't go home **again** A  
I just had to come back one last **time** B  
Ma'am I know you don't know me from **Adam** A  
But these hand prints on the front steps are **mine** B  
Up those stairs, in that little back **bedroom** A  
Is where I did my homework and I learned to play **guitar** B  
And I bet you didn't know, under that live **oak** A  
My favorite dog is buried in the **yard** B

I thought if I could touch this place or **feel it** A  
This brokenness inside me might start **healing** A  
Out here it's like I'm someone **else** B  
I thought that maybe I could find **myself** B  
If I could just come in I swear I'll **leave** A  
Won't take nothing but a **memory** C  
From the house that built **me** C

## HOMework



### Brainstorm Wheel

- Fill in the wedges of the pie chart to help generate ideas for our song.
- Be prepared to share what you write in our next session!