SONGWRITING 101
LESSON 1
OBJECTIVES

• Learn the fundamentals of songwriting
• Co-write an original song
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.
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.
• 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!
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

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

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
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I just had to come back one last time
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Verse

Chorus

Bridge

Chorus

Verse
“The House That Built Me”

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Discuss:

• How is the title used in this song?
• What makes the title memorable?
• What is the relationship between the title, hook, and chorus?
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.”
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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What is the rhyme scheme in the verse and chorus?

A B A B A B A C A B
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!