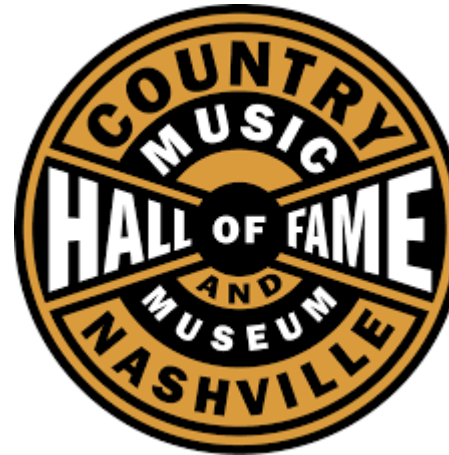




TEACH LANGUAGE ARTS THROUGH LYRIC WRITING

WORDS & MUSIC

LESSON 1





TEACH LANGUAGE ARTS THROUGH LYRIC WRITING

OBJECTIVES

1. Explore the art of songwriting
2. Co-write your own original song



LISTEN



Your CreatiVets song!

- Who were the songwriters?
- What was the experience like?

Listen to the song and identify:

- The parts of the song
- The rhyme scheme





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FREE WRITE

Do: Write about anything on your mind.

Do: Focus on writing for the entire five minutes.

Do: Keep your pen or pencil moving for the whole five minutes.

Don't: Worry about conventions like spelling or punctuation.





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TITLES, THEME AND MESSAGE





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THEME AND MESSAGE

The **theme** is the song's main subject.

A song's **message** is the underlying meaning the songwriter is trying to communicate about the theme.

What is the theme and message of your song?



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BRAINSTORM

Human experiences are actions, thoughts, or feelings that many people can relate to.

In your journal, write down as many **common human experiences** as you can in one minute.



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

ACTIVITY

List the following items in your journal:

- The first random memory that comes to your mind.
- Three things that you think about a lot.
- Three objects or ideas that are important to you.
- The first two happy memories that come to your mind.
- The first two sad memories that come to your mind.
- The first funny memory that comes to your mind.



TITLES

A song **title** often comes from things heard in daily life.

Sometimes titles tell us what the song is about. (*Beyoncé - "Single Ladies"*)

Other titles may not tell us everything about the subject. (*Katy Perry - "Roar"*)



Can you think of more examples like these?



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BRAINSTORM

Titles can come from everyday conversations you hear, a cool or popular phrase, a line in a movie or TV show, or something that your family or friends say all the time.

- Look at the list of topics you created.
- For practice, choose one topic and write a **title**. Remember, a **title** can be a word or a phrase.
- Don't be afraid to let your mind wander! A good song **title** can come from anywhere!



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RHYTHM AND SYLLABLES



ACTIVITY

Words + Music = a Song!

For lyrics to fit well with music, songwriters need to learn about rhythm and syllables.



Rhythm is a pattern of sounds and silences.

Syllables are the parts that a word is naturally divided into when it is pronounced.

Compare the lyrics below.
Does something sound wrong?

Syllables

6	And the rocket's red glare	And the rocket's red glare	6
6	<u>The bombs bursting in air</u>	<u>The bombs exploding everywhere</u>	8
5	Gave proof through the night	Gave proof through the night	5
6	That our flag was still there	That our flag was still there	6



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“Man in Black”

Written and performed by Johnny Cash

Listen to the song and find any patterns of **syllables**



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“Man in Black” by Johnny Cash

11 Well, you wonder why I always dress in black,
11 Why you never see bright colors on my back,
14 And why does my appearance seem to have a somber tone.
12 Well, there's a reason for the things that I have on.

12 I wear the black for the poor and the beaten down,
11 Livin' in the hopeless, hungry side of town,
14 I wear it for the prisoner who has long paid for his crime,
12 But is there because he's a victim of the times.

10 I wear the black for those who never read,
10 Or listened to the words that Jesus said,
14 About the road to happiness through love and charity,
11 Why, you'd think He's talking straight to you and me.

11 Well, we're doin' mighty fine, I do suppose,
11 In our streak of lightnin' cars and fancy clothes,
14 But just so we're reminded of the ones who are held back,
10 Up front there ought 'a be a Man In Black.

10 I wear it for the sick and lonely old,
11 For the reckless ones whose bad trip left them cold,
14 I wear the black in mournin' for the lives that could have been,
10 Each week we lose a hundred fine young men.

11 And, I wear it for the thousands who have died,
10 Believen' that the Lord was on their side,
14 I wear it for another hundred thousand who have died,
10 Believen' that we all were on their side.

11 Well, there's things that never will be right I know,
10 And things need changin' everywhere you go,
14 But 'til we start to make a move to make a few things right,
10 You'll never see me wear a suit of white.

11 Ah, I'd love to wear a rainbow every day,
10 And tell the world that everything's OK,
15 But I'll try to carry off a little darkness on my back,
10 'Till things are brighter, I'm the Man In Black



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HOMEWORK

Between now and our next meeting ...

- Write down any **themes** and **messages** you are interested in writing a song about.
- Write down as many **titles** as you can. Feel free to use the list you created in the brainstorm activity, or brainstorm titles that relate to the **themes** and **messages** you are interested in writing about. Remember, a good song **title** can come from anywhere!