

WORKSHEET

Songwriter Quotes

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read the following quotes from professional songwriters. After each quote, write what it teaches you about songwriting. Next, write one to three sentences in your journal about what you learned from reading the quotes.

1. “First of all, you have to trust yourself ... The other thing that you have to do ... Be sure to welcome failure. Always say, ‘You’re OK with me, failure.’ Because then you have no fear.” —**Neil Young**

2. “I think the best songs are the most truthful and honest songs. And it’s because it’s stuff you can’t actually say yourself.” —**Ed Sheeran**

3. “I would recommend that they [songwriters] follow through if they have an idea. Don’t quit halfway through like a baby. Go through the whole shebang and carry it through instead of quitting halfway.”
—**Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys**

4. “The rule is: Write bad songs, but write ’em. If you start writing bad songs, you start writing better songs, and then you start getting really good.” —**John Mayer**

5. “Some people don’t realize that [a song] needs to be edited. They think it’s good the way it is ... Some people think they’re done with a song when I think they should go back and revise it. Even sometimes I’ll think a song’s done, but I have friends I work with who will tell me to revise.” —**John Legend**

6. “A good portion of being available to be a writer is that emotionally you keep yourself open as a human being, you keep yourself healthy, you get enough rest, you get enough good food. Because without that you won’t have enough energy, and writing takes an enormous amount of energy.” —**Janis Ian**

7. “I think anyone could do it [songwriting]. I think a lot of people try to write songs that are a little out of reach. And they should just sit down and write what they know. And what they see.” —**Loretta Lynn**
