

Songwriting challenge - writing lyrics

Writing a verse and chorus-

The tools you will need for this challenge are a pen, paper, your imagination, and to know this is your song so it can end up being about anything you want it to be.

Maybe start this lesson by thinking about some of your favourite songs and song lyrics.

What are songs about? Are most songs about love or saving the planet? I've worked out that songs can be about anything and everything. One of my favourite songs is 'Here comes the sun by The Beatles' as the lyric and feel of the song makes me think about the sun coming out and lovely springtime colours.

A couple of questions -

What is a song made of?

What are the most important parts of a song?

What sections do you get in a song?

What are the main bits. The chorus?

Is the verse the story and the chorus the message?

One thing I can be certain of is the Chorus should be catchy and memorable. And sometimes/often the Chorus is the name of the song.

OK, let's begin. Let's get some ideas flowing.

1. I want you to take the next 2 mins to write on your piece of paper, absolutely anything at all. It doesn't need to make sense, it can be ANYTHING. one word that comes to mind. 100 words that do or don't make sense. Let's do it. 3.2.1. GO

2. Now let's take 1 min to write out exactly how it felt to do that. Let's not think too much about it. Here goes. 3.2.1. Go

3. Now let's make a list.

Write down

1. A person's name

2. A place

3. A colour

4. Element (force of nature)

5. A random thing

4. Now we are going to take all the things from our list and write 4 lines. They don't need to rhyme, let's take 4 of them and see what we end up with? Was it random or did it make perfect sense? Doesn't matter does it?

Are we thinking? Did we just come up with all that out of thin air? Hmmm.

5. Let's take it even further.

Let's make 2 more lists. One good list. And one bad list.

Let's make a list of 10 Good things and 10 Bad things - Could be anything. Let's take 5 mins for this.

6. Now, let's use the words from both lists and we are going to write an 8 line verse. With lines 1 & 2 or 2 & 4 rhyming.

Let's take 5 mins for this.

Have you found a meaning in what you are writing about? No big deal if not! Songs can be about anything. The Beatles even wrote about a Yellow Submarine. And you must have heard of the song 3 blind mice?

7. Can we add a chorus?

Something catchy and memorable?

Here are some examples of songs with big choruses-

She loves's You - The Beatles- Starts with the chorus

Chasing Cars - If I lay here, that is a big memorable chorus

The Proclaimers - 500 miles

8. So do we have a Verse and Chorus, did we think about a tune, have we been working with an instrument? Have we thought about other sections we could add?

9. Bye for now!