

A writing activity from

Grimm & Co

World Book Night Activity



Lyrics for Life

How would it sound to tell a story, or your own story, through song lyrics? It might not even be a story, but simply expressing a feeling or a moment in your life. It might rhyme, it might not. There are no rules!

You will need:

- Something to write on, such as a piece of paper or a notepad (or if you prefer, you could record yourself on audio/video using a smartphone)
- Something to write with, such as a pencil or a pen

Step one	Start with what you would like to say. What is the idea/story/feeling you want to share? Scribble down your first thoughts. You can draw a thought-cloud or mind-map with words, memories, or images that relate to your idea/story/feeling. Try writing using your senses, e.g. what can you see, hear, smell, taste, touch?
Step two	Highlight the key words. What is the key message you want to say? You might want to use these words and/or phrases in repetition in the later Steps.

Step three	Come up with a hook. A hook is basically a line in the song that gets stuck in people’s heads. It might be the title of your song, the first line or a line that is repeated in a chorus. It needs to be repeated so that it can be easily remembered.
Step four	<p>Write your lyrics. Use your own voice, like how you would usually speak to others, such as your friends. Start with just four lines, this is the first verse of your song. Then keep going. You could write another set of four lines for the second verse, or you might want to write a chorus.</p> <p>Think about the pattern, or shape, of your song. Look at the lyrics of some songs you like and see how they are organised. Notice any use of repeated lines. You can also use rhyme if you’d like to, but that’s up to you.</p> <p>Here’s a common structure used:</p> <p>Intro – Verse – Chorus – Verse – Chorus – Bridge – Chorus – Outro</p> <p>Keep writing...</p>
Step five	<p>Edit your lyrics. When you’ve written down all the lyrics, it’s time to edit them! This means going through, line by line, to see if there are any words you would like to change/rhyme.</p> <p>Steps four and five can be looped as many times as you like, until you’re satisfied with your lyrics.</p>
Step six	(Optional) You may wish to create a song with your lyrics. You don’t need to know how to play instruments to do this (unless you want to perform it yourself!). You can hum or rap your tune. Have fun!

And finally...

Share your lyrics and songs with us! We’d love to see them! Do this by taking a photo of your lyrics, or even an audio or video recording of you reading it aloud (you could also get someone else to read it aloud for you). Or if you’re feeling brave, you could sing/rap them to us.

You can post your lyrics/songs on social media, tagging us @grimmandco, or email your work to info@grimmandco.co.uk.

Happy creating!