



## CREATE YOUR OWN PUPPET SHOW

### MUSIC 3: Creating lyrics

Sometimes it's nice to have a song to focus in on a meaningful moment in a show. Or to really understand what a particular character is thinking and feeling. Or just to describe what's happening in a different way!

Songs can be anything from one word repeating (*Sing Why* by Annie Lennox), to a rap (*I like to move it*) to a story in itself with lots of verses (*What shall we do with the drunken sailor?*). Just start playing with words and see where they take you.

One way to make a new song is to use a tune you know already and fit new words to it. Your words don't have to have anything to do with the tune that you use.

You might be reminded of a tune while you're planning your puppet show or making the set. If you have a boat in the story you might find yourself suddenly singing **row, row, row your boat gently down the stream**. Or if it's raining for a part of the show then **Um-ber-ella, ella, ella hey hey hey hey hey hey hey** might pop in to your head!

If you'd like a backing track to sing along to instead of singing on your own then you could search for a karaoke version of that song on YouTube, Spotify or on other sites where you stream music. Just write "the name of the song" then "**karaoke version**".

Once you've found a tune that you fancy singing, it's time to start on some lyrics for your song.

There's lots of ways to get going with words for songs. What would you like the song to bring alive in your show?

- **Is it describing what someone is thinking or feeling?**

So, you could start each line with:

*I'm so happy.....*  
*I'm so glad.....*  
*I'm so sad.....*

And finish each line with a reason why:

*.....to see you here*  
*.....to get back home*  
*.....to miss you*

- **Is the song concentrating on a bit of action in a story?**

You could try repeating a line in between all the other lines to keep on track

For example a pyramid-building song could go:

*Working in the sun, block by block  
Searching for stones, block by block  
Muscles groan, block by block  
Now our pyramid touches sky*

- **Or is it a theme song for the whole show?**

It's quite nice to ask questions and then answer them like in the old superman catchphrase:

*Is it a bird, is it a plane? No it's Superman!*

- If your show was set in a war you could ask questions in your song like

*Who's going to win this raging battle?  
Who's in a tank, who's in the saddle?  
Who's going to make their mark on the map?  
Time will tell the tale*

Here's a list of songs that I find fun to put new words to. You can use one of these or find your own!

**Frere Jacques**  
**Twinkle Twinkle Little Star**  
**My Bonnie lies over the Ocean**  
**What Shall we do with the Drunken Sailor?**  
**Spider Man**  
**Umbrella - Rihanna**  
**I Like to Move It - will.i.am**  
**Happy - Pharrell Williams**  
**I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles) - The Proclaimers**  
**Don't Worry Be Happy - Bobby McFerrin**  
**I Feel Good - James Brown**  
**Shotgun - George Ezra**  
**Carme Suite No. 2 Habanera - Georges Bizet**  
**With a little help from my friends - The Beatles**

The next video is about some music I've written to match different stories that you might be telling in case you'd like to write a song with a brand new tune!