Songwriting Time
with Olive and Pickle!
Start here!
Recommended Materials

Checklist:

- Use this study guide as a fun way to dive deeper into the lessons.
- Notebook for lyrics
- Pen or Pencil
- A Voice Memo App

A note to adult mentors:

- If your child is ready for a path that is outside of their grade range, follow the path that fits your child best.
- Use this study guide for activities based on lessons, activities for your child’s pathway will be marked with an icon.
- Be ready to assist your child with study guide questions.
- Keep an ear and eye out for everyday experiences that are related to these lessons for the very best results!
- Encourage your child to record any song ideas that they may have.
Choose your path

White Oak Acorn
- Getting started with music
- Loves playing games
- Writing letters (ABC)
- K-1st Grade

Big Leaf Maple
- Some music experience
- Writing in sentences
- Would rather play games
- 2nd-3rd Grade

Doug Fir Tree
- More music experience
- Writing in paragraphs
- Games are still fun
- 4th-5th Grade

Does this sound like you?

Path name

Time to start the video!

4:43  11:13  16:46
White Oak Acorn:
Video 01: Getting Ideas (4:43)
Video 02: Song Sandwiches (0:00)
Video 03: Music Opposites (0:00)
Video 04: Sing! Play! Clap! (0:00)

Big Leaf Maple:
Video 01: Getting Ideas (11:13)
Video 02: Song Sandwiches (6:09)
Video 03: Music Opposites (5:36)
Video 04: Sing! Play! Clap! (4:12)

Doug Fir Tree:
Video 01: Getting Ideas (16:46)
Video 02: Song Sandwiches (12:45)
Video 03: Music Opposites (10:72)
Video 04: Sing! Play! Clap! (10:54)
Study Guides
Lesson One - Getting Ideas

What do you sense?

We’ll get you started with an example. Use your notebook for your answers, or record them on a voice memo app.

I see: A colourful blanket
I hear: A bird singing
I smell: A cup of hot tea
I taste: An orange slice

Finding sense words in songs

Find a recording of a song you love or use the example playlist in the video description, and write the sense words that you hear in that song in your notebook, or record them on a voice memo. Example is from XTC’s “Senses Working Overtime”

Example: Taste: “Taste the difference between a lemon and a lime” Hearing: “Bells softly chime” Sight: “The sky softly cries”

Describe a place you know well with sense words

Write the description in your notebook, or use a voice memo app.

Example: I feel the wind on my face as I climb the pine-scented branches to my tree house. I feel the rough bark of the trunk, and taste the salt of my sweat.

Describe something using all your senses
Lesson Two - Song Sandwiches

Find the chorus

Listen to one of your favourite songs, or use a song on the example playlist. Can you find a chorus? The chorus repeats, and can contain the title of the song. Write your answer in your notebook or use voice memos to record your answer. Example is from “Skip to my Lou”

Example:
Chorus: Lou, Lou, Skip to my Lou - skip to my Lou my darling
Verse: Flies in the buttermilk, shoo, fly shoo

Make a metaphor

A metaphor compares similarities between two things. Make 3-10 metaphors in your notebook, or record them with a voice memo app.

Example: His cheeks are red apples.

Find the song form

Using the key, write the form of one of your favourite songs, or use the playlist. Write your answer in your notebook or use voice memos to record your answer.

Key: Verse = A, Chorus = B, Other Section = C

Example:
C: Intro
B: Lou, Lou, Skip to my Lou - skip to my Lou my darling
A: Flies in the buttermilk, shoo, fly shoo
C: Break
B: Lou, Lou, Skip to my Lou - skip to my Lou my darling
A: Cows in the cornfield, moo, cow, moo
B: Lou, Lou, Skip to my Lou - skip to my Lou my darling
A: Going to the market, two by two
B: Lou, Lou, Skip to my Lou - skip to my Lou my darling
C: Outro

Who is telling the story

Look for the bold words in your song to help you identify who is telling the story. 1st person = I am telling the story. 2nd person = I am telling the story to you. 3rd person = A narrator is telling the story about He, She, They or It. Write your answer in your notebook or use voice memos to record your answer.
Lesson Three - Musical Opposites

Musical Opposites

Can you fill in the missing musical opposites? If you are stuck, consult the answer key in the back of the study guide.

- high
- short
- crescendo
- quiet
- sound

Melody Shapes

As you listen to one of your favourite songs, or find a song on the example playlist in the video description. Use your notebook to draw the shape of the melody by making a line that goes up and down with the notes. You can start with dots and connect them, if you like!

Example: Row, row, row your boat melody shape: __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Find Opposites

We’ll give you a couple to start with! See how many opposites you can find.

- Night
- Tidy
- Sour
Lesson Four - Sing, Play, Clap!

**Make your own chant**
Make up your own call and response chant by filling in the blanks. For added fun, say the chant with someone.
When I say ____________________ , you say ____________________.

**Find rhymes**
Write the rhymes you can find for these words in your notebook, or record as a voice memo.
short words: Cow, Stone, Door.
longer words: Pickle, Sunset, Potion

**Make your own rhythm words**
Follow the rhythm tree and write your own rhythm words in your notebook or record as a voice memo. Make sure that the syllables match!

- Golf 1 syllable
- Soccer 2 syllables
- Table Tennis 4 syllables
- Long Distance Cross Country Runner 8 syllables
Where to go from here
Let’s dive deeper

Apps for songwriters

Daily Object Writing
http://www.objectwriting.com
For a prompt and a timer

Songwriter’s Pad and B-Rhymes
- Find on App Store or Google play
- Free options

Writing Better Lyrics
- Book by Pat Pattison with many excellent exercises for songwriters

Wake up your writer every day!
Lesson 3- Musical Opposites

Question 1:
- low
- long
- decrescendo
- loud
- silence