

“Twinkle, Twinkle” Songwriting Activity

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (original version)

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.



Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Bat (Mad Hatter's version)

Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!
How I wonder what you're at!
Up above the world you fly,
Like a tea-tray in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!
How I wonder what you're at!

In this activity, you will be writing your own version of “Twinkle, Twinkle” just as the Mad Hatter did in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.

Rhythm

Let's begin by looking more closely at the two versions above. Clap the rhythm of the original version as you say it out loud.

How many beats are there in each line? _____

Keep that rhythm in mind as you start to write your own song. Each line will also need to have that number of beats.

Rhyme

Let's look at how the original version rhymes.

In the passage in the box below, underline the word “star” at the end of the first line. Next, look at all of the words at the end of each line. Underline all the ones that rhyme with “star.” Finally, there should be two words left that rhyme with each other. Circle those two words.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.

Do you see a pattern of rhyming words? This is called the rhyme scheme and for this song it would be labeled AABBA. When you write your song, it will have a similar rhyme scheme.

Subject of Your Song

The subject of the original “Twinkle, Twinkle” was a star. The subject of the Mad Hatter’s version was a bat. Now it’s time for you to decide the subject of *your* song. Think of an animal or object that you would like to write your song about. It needs to be a one-syllable word like “horse” or “moon.” Use the area below to brainstorm ideas, then write your choice on the line below.

Brainstorm Your Subject

My choice _____

First Line of Your Song

Now you are ready to write the first line of your song. Copy the first line of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” with all of the proper punctuation on the line below **except** change the word “star” to your subject. If you want, you may also change the word “little” to some other two-syllable adjective like “giant” or “purple” or “happy” or anything you like.

Rhyming Words for Subject

You need one phrase to end with a word that rhymes with your subject. This will become the second line of your song. Brainstorm or look up some words that rhyme with your subject and write the ones you might like to use in the space on the next page.

Rhyming Words

Phrases for Second Line

Think of some phrases that either describe your subject or tell what it is doing. These phrases need to end with the rhyming words you listed above. They also should have the same rhythm that the rest of the song has as described on the first page. Write your ideas for phrases below.

Brainstorm Phrases

Second Line of Your Song

Choose one of the phrases from above to be the second line of your song and write it on the line below.

Phrases for Third Line

The third line does not need to rhyme with the first and second. However the fourth line will rhyme with the third one. They both need to have the same rhythm as the rest of the song. Brainstorm some phrases that describe your subject or tell what it is doing in the space below. Then choose one that you'd like for your song and write it on the line.

Brainstorm Phrases

My choice _____

Rhyming Words for Fourth Line

The fourth line needs to rhyme with the third. Brainstorm or look up words that rhyme with the last word of the phrase you chose above for your third phrase.

Rhyming Words

Phrases for Fourth Line

Think of some phrases that either describe your subject or tell what it is doing. These phrases need to end with the rhyming words you listed above. They also should have the same rhythm that the rest of the song. Write your ideas for phrases below.

Brainstorm Phrases

Fourth Line of Your Song

Choose one of the phrases from above to be the fourth line of your song and write it on the line below.

Write Your Song

Now your song is complete. Copy the four lines that you created onto your own piece of paper. The fifth and sixth lines are exactly the same as the first and second lines so copy them below the fourth line.