

# 3 Easy Ways to Write Songs with Your Students

Songwriting can be a fun way to engage students of all ages in collaboration, whether they are connecting virtually or in a classroom. Teachers can use these strategies to create a successful experience for the students.

## Fill In The Blank Songwriting

To lead a fill in the blank songwriting experience, write out the lyrics to a pre-existing song. Remove key words and leave those spots blank. Show all the students the lyrics with the blanks, and ask students to volunteer words to fill in the blank.

### *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*

In the \_\_\_\_\_  
The \_\_\_\_\_  
The \_\_\_\_\_ tonight

In the school  
The silly school  
The teachers dance tonight

You can even start by choosing some of the words for the students, in order to give more or less structure to the experience. For example, you might give them the following lyrics:

In the school  
The \_\_\_\_\_ school  
The teachers \_\_\_\_\_ tonight

## MadLibs Style Songwriting

This is similar to the fill in the blank style of songwriting, but instead of sharing the lyrics with the students, you first ask for the parts of speech needed for each blank (noun, adjective, verb, adverb). You could be more specific for younger students, such as in the example below. These typically result in even sillier songs. MadLibs songwriting is a great way to build rapport with new groups of students!

### *If You're Happy and You Know It*

If you're \_\_\_\_\_ and you know it  
(adjective/feeling)  
\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.  
(verb/action) (noun/body part)

If you're hungry and you know it  
Stretch your toe

## Piggyback Songwriting

With piggyback songwriting, you completely replace the existing lyrics to a song with your own original lyrics. Try to take student ideas and make them fit into the existing meter of the song. You can choose whether or not to bother with rhyming.

### *You Are My Sunshine*

You are my sunshine  
My only sunshine  
You make me happy  
When skies are gray  
You'll never know, dear  
How much I love you  
Please don't take my sunshine away

We are the best class  
The very best class  
We work together  
Every day  
We all can count on  
One another  
We will make this another great day.

## List of Suggested Songs for Songwriting

*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*  
*You Are My Sunshine*  
*If You're Happy and You Know It*  
*Farmer in the Dell*  
*Mary Had a Little Lamb*  
*The Lion Sleeps Tonight* by The Tokens  
*Old Town Road* by Lil Nas X  
*Going on a Picnic* by Raffi  
*Call Me Maybe* by Carly Rae Jepsen  
*Three Little Birds* by Bob Marley