



Introduction to songwriting

Listen out for:

- The structure (verse, chorus etc).
- The hook or hooks (the catchiest part of the song).
- The texture – the way sounds have been combined, and the effect it creates.

When you write a song you can include any instruments that you like. In *Wonderwall*, you can hear:



drums



acoustic guitar



cello



electric guitar



piano



Wonderwall is a song by English rock band Oasis. Their music was known as Britpop.



Destiny's Child was an American group. One of their most famous singers is Beyoncé.

Texture - think about:

- Is there one singer, or several?
- Are there lots of instruments (a thicker sound) or just one or two (a thinner sound)? Or no instruments at all (acapella)?
- Does the texture stay the same throughout the song or does it change?

Riff = a short repeated idea. It might be on an instrument or a voice like 'Ah, freak out!'.

Bridge/middle 8 = a different section linking bits of the song together.

Hook = the catchiest part of the song.

Melody, hook, riff.

Smalltown boy is a song by English pop band Bronski Beat. Their music was known as synthpop as they used electronic synthesiser keyboards.

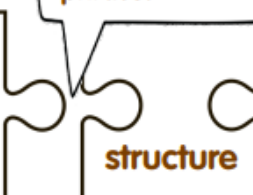
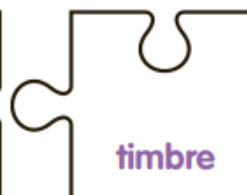
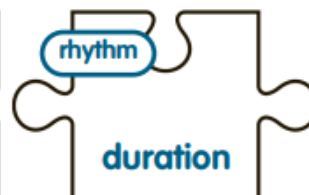
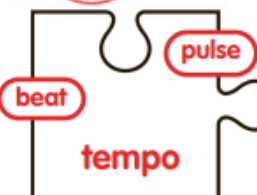


Le freak is a funk/disco song by American band Chic, led by Nile Rogers.

Verse, chorus, bridge/middle 8, introduction (intro), ending (outro), phrase.

Unison = singing or playing the same notes together.
Harmony = singing or playing other notes with the melody.

Solo
Accompaniment
Unison
Harmony
Loop





Autumn Unit B: 3 week unit

Musical Learning

Focus: Structure (verse/chorus), hook, lyric writing, melody

Objectives:

- **Improvise and compose**, 'doodling' with sound, playing around with pitch and rhythm to create a strong hook.
- **Create fragments of songs** that can develop into fully fledged songs.
- **Listen and appraise**, identifying the structure of songs and analysing them to appreciate the role of metaphor.
- **Understand techniques for creating a song** and develop a greater understanding of the songwriting process.

Key: **Improvise and Compose**; **Sing and Play**; **Listen and Appraise**.

Visual and Audio Materials

- Wonderwall (Oasis).
- Say my name (Destiny's Child).
- Le freak (Chic).
- Smalltown boy (Bronski Beat).

Your song:

Who will sing this song?
How old is the audience?
What theme would interest them?

If you are stuck for ideas, imagine an adventure for your plasticine person or think about how they are feeling ...

Your hook - line 1

Powerful, quirky, interesting - experiment with words and rhythms (how you say the pattern of the words).

Your hook - line 2

Write a second line that rhymes with the first - is it catchy? Does it make sense?

Make up a melody to go with your lyric hook - start by singing any note and 'doodling' with your voice.

If you have time you could write more verses, add a new section or 'bridge', make up a part for a 'live' instrument or develop your song using GarageBand or a looping app such as Looper.

Katy Perry is a famous American singer-songwriter.



Ed Sheeran is a famous English singer-songwriter who often uses a 'loop' (repeated phrase).

Bruno Mars is a famous American singer-songwriter and record producer.



Metaphor - describing something by saying something else. Song writers often use metaphors.

Timeline:

1950s/ 1960s

Rock and Roll
Rock
R and B/ Soul

1970s/ 1980s

Le Freak by Chic (1978).
Smalltown Boy by Bronski Beat (1984).

1990s/ 2000s

Wonderwall by Oasis (1995).
Say my name by Destiny's Child (1999).

2010s/ 2020s

Firework by Katy Perry (2010).

What other songs do you know?