

Songwriting Prompts - Workshop

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1. Why do you plant seeds?
2. What do you grow in your garden?
3. "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise." *James 5:13*
4. Build raised beds or plant in the level ground?
5. What things would you use to decorate your garden?
6. Bees, bugs, and pests.
7. "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." *Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*
8. What did the caterpillar say to the wasp?
9. Dandelions everywhere.
10. Garden journals from ten years ago.
11. My seed bin.
12. Seasonal garden chores
13. "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, 'I find no pleasure in them.'" *Ecclesiastes 12:1*
14. Mow, weed-whack, prune, pick, dig, repair.
15. The border between the flowerbeds and the lawn
16. Yardwork is a vacation
17. Falling fences
18. My new shed
19. "He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers... and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers." *Exodus 35:35*
20. Seasons don't change everywhere.

Exercises

Write a blues. Twelver bar blues have a familiar form and provide a good template to use when you start songwriting. The first and second lines are the same lyrically, and the third line is different, but anchored to the previous two with an end rhyme.

Example:

I got the blues this morning, lord I'm feeling low
I got the blues this morning, lord I'm feeling low
'Cause I know this evening I won't have no place to go

The chord progression is standardized as well:

I	I	I	I
IV	IV	I	I
V	V	I	I

Write a four-line verse. Many songs are composed with a 16-bar structure that lays out lyrically into four lines. There are two standard rhyme schemes that are normally used, couplets and quatrains. They are defined by the end rhyme (the last word of each line rhyming with other lines).

A couplet rhyme scheme is: AABB

When the sun came up this morning I was feeling sad
I'd lost the only true love I'd ever had
When the sun sets this evening I don't know where I'll go
Why she left me, I'll never even know

a quatrain rhyme scheme is: ABAB

When the sun came up this morning I was feeling sad
When the sun sets this evening I don't know where I'll go
I've lost the only true love I ever had
Why she left me, I'll never even know

Write one chord change in each line, with the last chord being the root chord.

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