

Progressions: Songwriting – with Martin Gilmore

Section 3 Writing Prompts

1. Write a song with four verses and each verse is about a different person in a family. Tie the verse together with a chorus that links each verse.
2. Write a song about measurements.
3. Have you ever had a car that you bonded with? What would you say to that car? What would you tell us about the car? Put it in a song
4. Write an advertising jingle to sell a product. Jingles usually have a very catchy melody that is very easy to remember. They usually talk about how good the product is. (Example – The Nugrape Twins “I’ve Got an Ice Cold Nugrape <https://youtu.be/eHRGXvfSu3s>)
5. Find a person who is not a songwriter and ask them what their favorite kinds of songs are. What themes do they like? What styles do they like? Slow songs? Fast songs? Dance Songs? Ballads? Etc. Write a song using their answers.
6. Do you love or hate you hometown? Tell us about it with a song.
7. Sweet or salty?
8. Write a dance song.
9. Many songs from the past are work songs or songs used to accomplish a task (sea shantys, railroad songs, logging songs, etc.) Write a work song to help you accomplish a task.
10. What does your inner voice say to you in times of hardship? Is it nice to you, is it mean? Does it ask you if you are ok or tell you that you suck? Write a song about it.
11. Write a song about a broken watch.
12. Where would you be if you weren’t here?
13. What do you miss about your childhood? Have you ever been able to recapture that thing? Tell us about it in a song.
14. Write a song that describes a landscape (i.e. America the Beautiful)
15. Write a song that gives directions.
16. Jasmine tea or coffee?
17. Write a Christmas carol. Religious or secular.
18. Listen to a local band. What are some common themes in their songs? Write a song for them.