

[Note: this document is always a work in progress..]

## PS - 3 Songs

*Blackbird* (John Lennon/Paul McCartney)

(Ask students to show the hand motions that go with these lyrics!)

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these broken wings and learn to fly  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to be free.

Blackbird fly Blackbird fly  
Into the light of the dark black night.

*The last line is a riddle -- What is the light of the dark black night? My answer is the moon. If the Blackbird is flying into it, try picturing the silhouette of the flying bird against the light of the (full?) moon. [The song's origin.](#)*

*Miss Mary Mack* (Trad.)

Miss Mary Mack Mack Mack All dressed in black, black, black  
With silver buttons, buttons, buttons All down her back, back, back.

She asked her mother, mother, mother For 50 cents, cents, cents  
To see the elephants, elephants, elephants Jump over the fence, fence, fence.

They jumped so high, high, high They reached the sky, sky, sky  
And they didn't come down, down, down 'Til the 4th of July, ly, ly!

*This is a clapping song from the mid-1800s. In PS3 we do a simple clapping pattern leg, leg, clap. (Leg=hit your leg, one hand at a time). The lyrics are presented with colors shown above. We talk about how old Miss Mary might be, how old are you when you are asking your mother for 50¢? What time of year is it? That is, if an elephant arrives back from a super jump on 7/4, when did it likely depart?*

## PK - 4 Songs

*You Are The Sunshine Of My Life* (Stevie Wonder)  
(Ask students to show the hand motions that go with these lyrics!)

You are the sunshine of my life/That's why I'll always be around,  
You are the apple of my eye/Forever you'll stay in my heart

I feel like this is the beginning/though I've loved you for a million years,  
And if I thought our love was ending/I'd find myself drowning in my own tears

You are the sunshine of my life/That's why I'll always stay around,  
You are the apple of my eye/Forever you'll stay in my heart

You must have known that I was lonely/Because you came to my rescue,  
And I know that this must be heaven/How could so much love be inside of you?

You are (Do, sol) the...

*Every time the chorus is sung, there are variations in lyrics and melody which are detailed in the class's rehearsal. This ingrains in them the idea that a musical phrase can have more than one interpretation. Students are encouraged to use the two "You are..." phrases with their own family members.*

*Blowin' In The Wind* (Bob Dylan)

How many roads must a man walk down/Before you call him a man?  
How many seas must a white dove sail/Before she sleeps in the sand?  
Yes & how many times must the cannon balls fly/Before they're forever banned?  
The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind/The answer is blowin' in the wind.

Yes & how many years can a mountain exist before it's washed to the sea?  
Yes & how many years can some people exist, before they're allowed to be free?  
Yes & how many times can a man turn his head and pretend that he just doesn't see?  
The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind/The answer is blowin' in the wind.

*This song is an exercise in structured memorization. We start out with the front end of the questions, How many, roads, how many seas, how many times -- oh wait, by the third question we're getting impatient, so it has the prefix, "Yes &." By the second verse, we're impatient from the first question. Verse two has hand motions. The chorus is a beautiful example of figurative language, so much better than just saying "dunno."*

## Kindergarten Songs

*I Can See Clearly* (J. Nash, sung by Jimmy Cliff)

(1,2)I can see clearly now the rain is gone.  
(1,2,3,4,1,2)I can see all obstacles in my way.  
(1,2)Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind.  
||: It's gonna be a bright (bright)  
bright (bright) sunshin-in day. :||

Oh, yes I can make it now the pain is gone/All of the bad feelings have disappeared.  
Here is that rainbow I've been praying for/ It's gonna be...

Look all around, there's nothing but blue skies.

Look straight ahead, there's nothing but blue skies. *down down up down jump up down down*

*This song's lyrics provide material for a great question: what two things are being compared? Once the class arrives at some version of "the singer's emotions and the weather," it opens it up for looking for other songs that use a similar device. They've already sung "You are the sunshine of my life," many know "You are my sunshine." There are always new examples. Vocally, the class learns how to come in after counting rests while the chorus has the class singing different parts: Girls: It's gonna be a----- bright bright sunshin-in day*

*Boys: It's gonna be a bright ----- bright sunshin-in day*

*The end of the bridge is an exercise in descending and ascending motion.*

*If I Had a Hammer* (Pete Seeger and Lee Hays) [Keyboard Intro Part](#)

If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning I'd hammer, in the evening, all over this land  
I'd hammer, out danger, I'd hammer, out a warning, I'd hammer, out love between my brothers and my sisters,  
All over this land

If I had a bell, I'd ring it in the morning, I'd ring it in the evening, all over this land  
I'd ring out danger, I'd ring out a warning, I'd ring out love between my brothers and my sisters,  
All over this land

If I had a song...

Well I got a hammer, And I got a bell, And I got a song to sing, all over this land.  
It's the hammer of Justice, It's the bell of Freedom, It's the song about Love between my brothers and my sisters,  
All over this land.

*This song is an American classic, in three verses it spells out what many believe are the three most important values of our American society: Justice, Freedom and Love. Vocally, the song uses an octave range of Do to Do until the closing verse, which sums up the previous three verses, and then the word Freedom goes one note higher to the "Re" above the higher "Do." In rehearsal students are taught where and how to breath to give that lyric its maximum impact. The song has a simple basic keyboard part that most Kindergarten students can play, three notes (in the key of C), Mi, Re, Do, which goes with the "Ooo, ooo, ooo" vocal part at the beginning of each verse. Advanced students can play along whenever the song's melody goes Mi, Re Do (morning and land, verses 1-3, bell and land verse 4).*

*Food, Glorious Food* (From OLIVER by Lionel Bart)

Food, glorious food! Hot sausage and mustard! While we're in the mood -- Cold jelly and custard!  
Peas, pudding and saveloys! What next is the question? Rich gentlemen have it, boys -- In-di-gestion!

Food, glorious food! We're anxious to try it. Three banquets a day -- Our favorite diet!  
Just picture a great big steak, fried, roasted or stewed. O, food, wonderful food, marvelous food, glorious food.

*This is a song with a serious back story, Oliver Twist. I tell the class a short version of the story and introduce the word orphanage which will make a significant reappearance when they learn HAMILTON songs in 4th and 5th grade. The song has some interesting vocabulary; did you know that saveloy is an old fashioned name for a hot dog? What turns a meal into a banquet? The song also lends itself well to a unison rap version. We take the final sentence and turn it into a tag, "Wonderful, marvelous, glorious food, you got the W-M-G, in the DMV, Wonderful, marvelous, glorious food."*

*Once There Was a Man Named King*  
(Author unknown, tune: *Michael Row the Boat Ashore*)

Once there was a man named King, Alleluia, call him Martin Luther King, Alleluia.  
King was wise and he was good, Alleluia, he believed in brotherhood, Alleluia.  
Martin's eyes were color blind, Alleluia, he loved people of every kind, Alleluia.  
He had a dream for you and me, Alleluia, knew all people must be free, Alleluia.

Freedom road is weary and long, Alleluia But he sang a freedom song, Alleluia  
Then one day he sang no more, Alleluia Changed the world forevermore, Alleluia

We must keep the dream alive, Alleluia Freedom's song can never die, Alleluia  
If we join hands it will come true, Alleluia Freedom starts with me and you, Alleluia

*The first four lines tell who Dr. King was, the next two tell what he did and the last two tell what we must do. An advanced class might play a keyboard part doubling the vocal Alleluias*

# 1st Grade Songs

*Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'* (from OKLAHOMA by Rogers and Hammerstein) [Generic Keyboard Intro](#)

There's a bright golden haze on the meadow, there's a bright golden haze on the meadow,  
The corn is as high as an elephant's eye, An' it looks like its climbin' clear up to the sky.

*Chorus:*

Oh what a beautiful morning, Oh what a beautiful day, I've got a wonderful feeling, Everything's going my way.  
All the cattle are standing like statues, All the cattle are standing like statues,  
They don't turn their heads as they see me ride by. But a little brown mav'rick is winking her eye.

*Repeat chorus*

All the sounds of the earth are like music, All the sounds of the earth are like music,  
The breeze is so busy it don't miss a tree, And an ol' Weepin' Willer is laughin' at me.

*The keyboard intro, Do / Do Re|Mi / Mi Fa|Sol | || can be used different ways, solo, unison, antiphonally overlapping or sequential. As for the lyrics, what is the singer riding on? The 1st grade came up with a lot of non-equine answers until I cued them with the idea that the singer was taking care of the cattle/cows and thus was a cowboy...*

*What a Wonderful World,*

(sung by Louis Armstrong comp. Bob Thiele and George David Weiss)

I see trees of green, red roses too. I see them bloom, for me and you.

And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

I see skies of blue

And clouds of white.

The bright blessed day

The dark sacred night.

And I think to myself, What a wonderful world.

The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky

Are also on the faces, Of people going by,

I see friends shaking hands. Saying, "How do you do?"

They're really saying, "I love you".

I hear babies cry, I watch them grow, they'll learn much more, than I'll ever know.

And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

Yes, I think to myself, what a wonderful world. Oh yeah.

*I discontinued doing this song because it made one of the students cry. I asked the student's father whether it had ben played at a family funeral and he said no. I decided there is something very powerful in this song or maybe in how Louis Armstrong sang it.*

*Pride (In The Name of Love by U2)*

One man come in the name of love, One man come and go, One man come he to justify, One man to overthrow  
*In the name of love What more in the name of love In the name of love, What more in the name of love*

One man caught on a barbed wire fence, One man he resist  
One man washed up on an empty beach, One man betrayed with a kiss *In the name of love*

Early morning, April four, shot rings out in the Memphis sky  
Free at last, they took your life, they could not take your pride *In the name of love*

*In some ways this is a rather adult song for 1st graders. It's included because it is a good song to add to a MLK musical program. The lyrics literally teach the date of his death (I add that it was 1968) and how he was killed. Vocally it offers the students the task of jumping to the high octave for the chorus. When we sing along with the recording the students love to rock-out to the guitar parts.*

*This Land Is Your Land (Woody Guthrie)*

*This land is your land This land is my land, from California to the New York island;  
From the red wood forest to the Gulf Stream waters this land was made for you and me.*

As I was walking that ribbon of highway, I saw above me that endless skyway:  
I saw below me that golden valley: This land was made for you and me.

I've roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps to the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts;  
And all around me a voice was sounding: this land was made for you and me.

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling, and the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,  
As the fog was lifting a voice was chanting: this land was made for you and me.

Nobody living can ever stop me, as I go walking that freedom highway;  
Nobody living can ever make me turn back: this land was made for you and me.

*Along with If I Had a Hammer, this song portrays the ideals of our country. There is something special about each verse, Verse 1: "golden valley," students learn how grass in California turns gold colored in the summer. Verse 2: alliteration, rr, ff, ss, dd Verse 3: Six action words/verbs/words ending in "ing." Verse 4: social justice.*

*We Will Rock You* ([Keyboard Part](#))

Buddy you're a boy make a big noise  
Playin' in the street gonna be a big man some day  
You got mud on yo' face You big disgrace  
Kickin' your can all over the place -- Singin'  
We will we will rock you We will we will rock you

Buddy you're a young man hard man  
Shoutin' in the street gonna take on the world some day  
You got blood on yo' face You big disgrace  
Wavin' your banner all over the place  
We will we will rock you (Sing it!) We will we will rock you

Buddy you're an old man poor man  
Pleadin' with your eyes gonna make you some peace some day  
You got mud on your face You big disgrace  
Somebody better put you back into your place  
We will we will rock you (Sing it!)  
We will we will rock you (Everybody)  
We will we will rock you...

*The students love singing this song. While the lyrics contain little that is positive, it is a good vocal exercise. The words need to be enunciated and the words come at a fast challenging pace. The real virtue of doing this song is that 1st graders can provide all the accompaniment with a few simple keyboard parts.*

## 2nd Grade Songs

*Jeepers Creepers* (sung by Louis Armstrong comp. Harry Warren and Johnny Mercer)

Now, I don't care what the weather man says when the weatherman says it's raining  
You'll never hear me complaining, I'm certain the sun will shine  
I don't care how the weather vane points when the weather vane points to gloomy  
It's gotta be sunny to me, when your eyes look into mine Oh,

Jeepers Creepers, where'd ya get those peepers? Jeepers Creepers, where'd ya get those eyes?  
Oh, Gosh all git up, how'd they get so lit up? Gosh all git up, how'd they get that size?  
Oh, Golly gee! When you turn those heaters on, woe is me Got to put my cheaters on...  
Jeepers Creepers Where'd ya get those peepers? Oh, those weepers How they hypnotize, yes,  
Where'd ya get those eyes?

*Hello Dolly* (sung by Louis Armstrong comp. Jerry Herman)

Hello Dolly, this is Louis, Dolly/It's so nice to have you back where you belong  
You're looking swell Dolly I can tell, Dolly/You're still glowing, you're still crowing, you're still going strong.  
I feel that room swaying, while the band's playing one of your old favorite songs from way back when.  
So, take her wrap, fellas, find her an empty lap, fellas Dolly'll never go away again!  
[So, Golly Gee, Fellas, Have a little faith in me, Fellas]

*Louis Armstrong is the foundation of the American vocal style, being a major influence on Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday and countless others. These two songs are in keys where the students can sing right along with the recordings. When we perform them as a medley, we take Hello Dolly down a whole step to make it more comfortable. The instrumental phrase intro to Jeepers Creepers is presented as solfege example.*

*Sir Duke* (By Stevie Wonder)

[Do Mi Sol Do] |La la Do ti do mi ri mi la| |Le le Do do May re may le sol| [repeat]  
Music is a world within itself with a language we all understand  
With an equal opportunity for all to sing, dance and clap their hands  
But just because a record has a groove don't make it in the groove  
But you can tell right away at letter A when the people start to move THEY CAN..

Music knows it is and always will be one of the things that life just won't quit  
But here are some of music's pioneers that time will not allow us to forget, now  
For there's Basie, Miller, Sachimo and the king of all Sir Duke  
And with a voice like Ella's ringing out there's no way the band can lose YOU CAN

*This song ties so many threads together. The students have been exposed to all the musicians cited in the song, except Glenn Miller. This is song serves as an introduction records with grooves, I pass around some vinyl records, a "33" and a "78" no "45s." Then we discuss the pun on the word "groove."*

*Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* (Trad. 1860s) [Keyboard Part](#)

**All:** Swing low, sweet chariot Coming for to carry me home, (D D D D M M S S)  
Swing low, sweet chariot, Coming for to carry me home. (D D D R M D R D)

- 1) I looked over Jordan and what did I see? Coming...  
A band of angels coming after me. Coming... **Chorus**
- 2) Sometimes I'm up, & sometimes I'm down. Coming...  
But still my soul feels heavenly bound. Coming... **Chorus**
- 3) If you get there before I do, Coming...  
Tell all my friends I'm coming there too. Coming... **Chorus**

**From Wikipedia:** In 2002, the [Library of Congress](#) honored the song as one of 50 recordings chosen that year to be added to the [National Recording Registry](#). It was also included in the list of [Songs of the Century](#), by the [Recording Industry Association of America](#) and the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" may have been written by [Wallis Willis](#), a [Choctaw freedman](#) in the old [Indian Territory](#) in what is now Choctaw County, near the County seat of [Hugo, Oklahoma](#) sometime after 1865. ... this song and "[Steal Away](#)"<sup>[3]</sup> (also sung by Willis) had lyrics that referred to the [Underground Railroad](#), the freedom movement that helped black people escape from Southern slavery to the North and Canada.

## 3rd Grade

*I Only Have Eyes For You* (Sung by Frank Sinatra comp. Harry Warren and Al Dubin) [Keyboard part](#)

Are the stars out tonight? I don't know if it's cloudy or bright 'cause I only have eyes for you, dear  
And the moon may be high but I can't see a thing in the sky 'cause I only have eyes for you.

I don't know if we're in (1 2) a garden Or on a crowded avenue  
You are here, and so am I maybe millions of people go by  
But they all disappear from view And I only have eyes for you

(Band) + 4 + (2) 3 4 + (2 3) ah ee 1 + + + 4 + (2 3)  
+ 4 + + 2 + + 4 + + 2 + + 4 a-nd (2 3 4) + ( 2 3)  
4 + (2 3) + 4 + (2 3) + 4 + + a 3 + a 1  
+ 4 + + ( 3 4) + + 4 + + ( 3 4) +

Oooo I don't know if we're in a garden Or on a crowded avenue  
You are here, and so am I maybe millions of people go by  
But they all disappear from view and I only have eyes for you

*This swinging number is used to introduce students to counting swing rhythms using numbers and traditional syllables for subdivisions of the beat (+ voiced as "and" for the 1/8 note and the number ee ah for triplets).*

*Lift Every Voice and Sing* (J.W. Johnson & J.R. Johnson)

Lift every voice & sing til earth & heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won.

*This 1899 composition has come to be known as "The Black National Anthem." At Ludlow-Taylor, it is one of our school songs, along with Dean Thomas's Academic Warriors. "Lift every voice," is my main objective in music class -- I want ALL my students singing. Was the writer of these lyrics religious? What evidence is there in this song to support your answer?*

*Killing Me Softly With His Song* (sung by Roberta Flack comp. by Charles Fox)

[Chorus] Strumming my pain with his fingers, singing my life with his words  
Killing me softly with his song Killing me...song telling my whole life with his words  
Killing me softly with his song

I heard he sang a good song I heard he had a style and so I came to see him To listen for a while  
And there he was this young boy A stranger to my eyes [Chorus]

I felt all flushed with fever embarrassed by the crowd I felt he found my letters and read each one out loud.  
I prayed that he would finish, but he just kept right on [Chorus]

He sang as if he knew me in all my dark despair and then he looked right through me As if I wasn't there  
And he just kept on singing Singing clear and strong [Chorus]

*Keep Your eyes On The Prize* (Trad. Folk song)

Got my hand on the freedom plow Won't give nothin' for my journey now. Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.  
[Refrain]Hold on! Hold on! Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.

We fought jail and violence too, but God's love has seen us through. Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.

Work all day and work all night, tryin' to get our civil rights keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.

The only chain that a man can stand is the chain of a hand in hand keep your eyes on the prize, hold on.

## 4th Grade

C F C F  
I've got sunshine on a cloudy day.

C F C  
When it's cold outside I've got the month of May.

C D- F G C D- F G  
I guess you'd say, what can make me feel this way  
C Dmin G  
My girl (my girl, my girl) Talkin' 'bout my girl (my girl).

I've got so much honey the bees envy me.  
I've got a sweeter song than the birds in the trees.

I don't need no money, fortune or fame.  
I've got all the riches, baby, one man can claim...

### *The Times They Are A-Changin'* (Bob Dylan)

Come gather 'round people wherever you roam and admit that the waters around you have grown  
And accept it that soon you'll be drenched to the bone if your time to you is worth savin'  
Then you better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone for the times they are a-changin'.

Come writers and critics who prophesize with your pen and keep your eyes wide the chance won't come again  
And don't speak too soon for the wheel's still in spin and there's no tellin' who that it's namin'  
For the loser now will be later to win for the times they are a-changin'.

Come senators, congressmen please heed the call, don't stand in the doorway don't block up the hall  
For he that gets hurt will be he who has stalled there's a battle outside and it is ragin'  
It'll soon shake your windows and rattle your walls for the times they are a-changin'.

Come mothers and fathers throughout the land and don't criticize what you can't understand  
Your sons and your daughters are beyond your command your old road is rapidly agin'  
Please get out of the new one if you can't lend your hand for the times they are a-changin'.

The line it is drawn the curse it is cast the slow one now will later be fast  
As the present now will later be past the order is rapidly fadin'  
And the first one now will later be last for the times they are a-changin'.

## 5th Grade

*So What* (By Miles Davis, Lyrics by Eddie Jefferson)

Miles Davis walked off the stage (So What!) As soon as his solo was over (So What!)

Oh yes, he did leave the stage (So What!) Clean out of sight now (So What!)

Coltrane he walked off the stage (So What!) That's what you folks are all saying (So What!)

Oh yes, he did leave the stage (So What!) and that's a fact now (So What!)

They felt they had to rehearse (Backstage) Although we know they are masters (That's right)

They get a real mellow sound (So smooth) And you will have to admit it (Uh huh)

Yes, they both left the stage (So What!) Soon as their solo's were over (So What!)

And if you can't figure out (Their groove) I'd like to hip you

## Songs Arranged Chronologically

1994 *Seasons of Love* 4th  
1994 *I Just Can't Wait To Be King* 3rd

2015 *HAMILTON SONGS* (Lin-Manuel Miranda) 5th

(1800s) *Miss Mary Mack* (Trad.) PS - 3  
1865 *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* 2nd  
1899 *Lift Every Voice & Sing* (J.W. Johnson & J.R. Johnson) 3rd  
1899 *Keep On The Sunny Side* (1899)

1931 *It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing*  
1934/62 *I Only Have Eyes For You* (Sung by Frank Sinatra  
comp. Harry Warren and Al Dubin) 3rd  
1937 *Keep Your eyes On The Prize* (Trad. Folk song) 3rd  
1938 *Jeepers Creepers* (sung by Louis Armstrong by Harry  
Warren and Johnny Mercer) 2nd  
1938 *Our Love is Here to Stay*  
1939 *In a Mellow Tone*  
1939 *God Bless The Child*  
1939 *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*  
1939 *Lester Leaps In* (Lester Young Vocal version; I Got the  
Blues, lyrics by Eddie Jefferson)

1940 *This Land Is Your Land* (Woody Guthrie) 1st  
1943 *Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'*  
1945 *Now's the Time* (Parker/Lyrics Eddie Jefferson)  
1945 *Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive* (Johnny Mercer)  
1946 *Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!*  
1949/62 *If I Had A Hammer* (Pete Seeger and Lee Hays) - K

1955 *Autumn Leaves*  
1956 *Roll Over Beethoven* Chuck Berry  
1956 *Love Me Tender* Elvis Presley  
1957 *You Send Me* Sam Cooke  
1958/87 *La Bamba* (Richie Valens)  
1959 *So What* (Miles Davis, Lyrics by Eddie Jefferson) 5th  
1959 *My Favorite Things*

1960 *Food, Glorious Food* (From OLIVER by Lionel Bart) -1  
1962 *Blowin' In The Wind* (Bob Dylan) PK -4  
1964 *Hello Dolly* (by Jerry Herman) 2nd  
1964 *My Girl* (Sung by The Temptations, comp. Smokey  
Robinson/Ronald White) 4th  
1964 *The Times They Are A-Changin'* 4th  
1967 *What a Wonderful World*, (sung by Louis Armstrong  
comp. Bob Thiele and George David Weiss) 1st  
1968 *Blackbird* (John Lennon/Paul McCartney) PS - 3

1971 **You've Got a Friend**  
1971/73 *Killing Me Softly With His Song* (sung by Roberta  
Flack (formerly of DCPS) comp. Charles Fox) 3rd  
1972/93 *I Can See Clearly Now* (Jimmy Cliff) - K  
1973 *You Are The Sunshine Of My Life* (Stevie Wonder) PK -4  
1976 *Sir Duke* (By Stevie Wonder) 2nd  
1977 **3 Little Birds**

1980s *Once There was a Man Named King* (Tune, Trad. Author  
unknown)  
1984 *Pride* (In The Name of Love) by U2) 1st  
1985 *We Are the World* 4th  
1988 *Don't Worry, Be Happy* (Bobby McFerrin)  
1989 *Under the Sea*

1991 *Shiny Happy People* 2nd