

# Lyrics

## Lyricist...

a person able to write words to a melody

A lyricist needs to be able to match words to the rhythms in music. Lyricists often either also write melodies or work with a composer so that words and rhythms may be revised to work with each other.

"Old MacDonald" is a zipper song.

*Old MacDonald had a farm ...  
And on that farm, she/he had a cow ...*

Any word with 1-syllable may be sung instead of "cow",  
e.g. horse, cat, duck.

Or, change the song even more  
by zipping in a new word in place of "farm",  
e.g. *Old MacDonald had a zoo*  
*Old Mac Donald had a store*

Usually, when a song is well known, children can zip in new words for verses without need to explain about rhythms and syllables. However, as compositions become more unique, students need to add understanding to an intuitive matching of rhythm to melody so that they can write their compositions within the parameters of music that can be read by others.

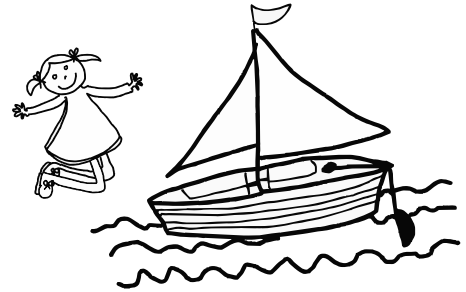
To further develop composition skills, see also:  
Workpages for "Rhythm & Beat"

AND under Resources  
---Composition Projects  
(each has a set of workpages)

# When I Was One

Canada  
Street Rhyme

When I was one I ate a bun, going over the sea,  
I jumped aboard a sailing ship  
and the sailor said to me,  
"Going over, going under,  
stand at attention, like a soldier,  
with a 1, 2, 3."

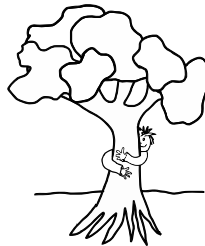


Find the words to finish each part of the song.

- |                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| When I was one I ate a _____        | jive   |
| When I was two I dropped my _____   | tree   |
| When I was three I climbed a _____  | shoe   |
| When I was four I painted the _____ | tricks |
| When I was five I danced the _____  | bun    |
| When I was six, I played some _____ | floor  |

When I was 3  
I climbed a tree

but



what if I  
painted a tree  
instead?



Create your own silly song by changing the verbs. What will you sing?

- |                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| When I was one I _____ a bun       | ate     |
| When I was two I _____ my shoe     | dropped |
| When I was three I _____ a tree    | climbed |
| When I was four I _____ the floor  | painted |
| When I was five I _____ the jive   | danced  |
| When I was six I _____ some tricks | played  |

Now sing your song to a friend.

**Ask me to sing my silly song.**

I can do music in Lesson 20b . My name is \_\_\_\_\_

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Key G, first note do(G)  
a cappella count-in: 1 and 2 and 1 and 2 there...  
CD intro: bars

# Aiken Drum

Scotland  
1700s  
arr: LJ Clare

There was a man lived in the moon lived in the moon, lived  
in the moon, There was a man lived in the moon and his name was Ai-ken Drum.

**And he played upon a ladle, a ladle, a ladle,  
And he played upon a ladle,  
And his name was Aiken Drum.**

**And his hat was made of good cream cheese ...  
And his coat was made of good roast beef ...  
And his buttons were made of penny loaves ...  
And his breeches were made of haggis bags ...**

**Create your own Aiken Drum! Choose a theme,  
then fill in the blanks  
and draw a picture.**

**fruits and vegetables  
junk food  
drug store items  
toys or sports**

**My theme is \_\_\_\_\_.**

**head** \_\_\_\_\_

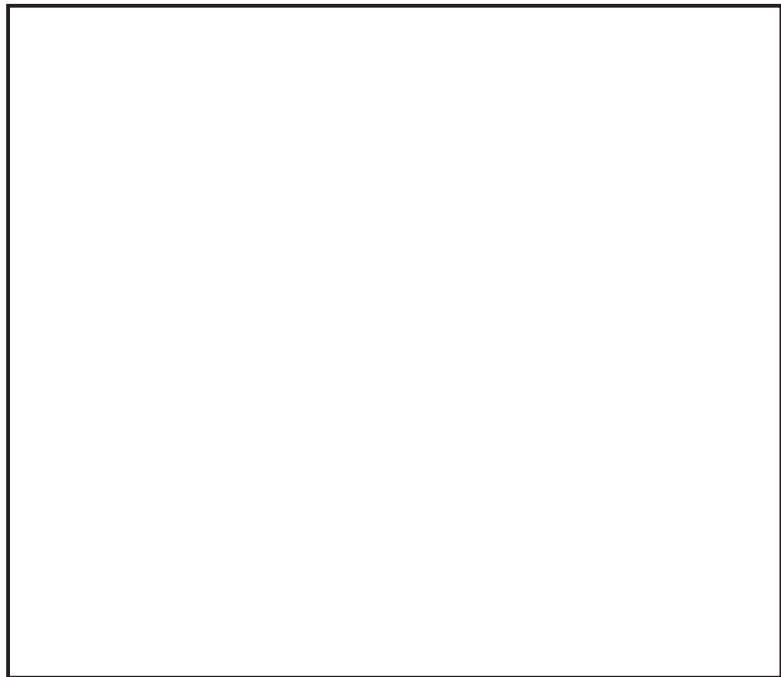
**hair** \_\_\_\_\_

**nose** \_\_\_\_\_

**ears** \_\_\_\_\_

**mouth** \_\_\_\_\_

**eyes** \_\_\_\_\_



**Ask me to tell you about Aiken Drum and sing you a few verses!**



Key D, first note F#(mi), Pentatonic  
a cappella count-in: 1 2 1 gotta ...

# Little Liza Jane

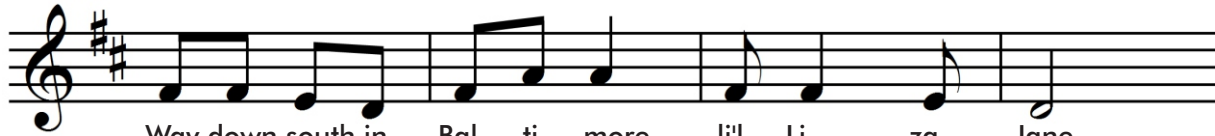
United States  
folksong

arr: LJ Clare 2012

*Allegro*



I got-ta gal that you don't know, li'l Li - za Jane,



Way down south in Bal - ti - more, li'l Li - za Jane.

## Steps for Writing a New Version of Little Liza Jane

1. Sing the first verse of Little Liza Jane.
2. Now sing it while walking in place.  
How many steps did it take to sing "Baltimore"?
3. But maybe Liza Jane doesn't live in Baltimore!  
Where else could she live that's "way up north"?
4. Think of a place to sing that's "way up north".  
Try singing it to make sure it fits into 2 walking steps.

in Yellowknife?

in Dawson's Creek?

in Canada?

in Cornerbrook?

I gotta gal that you don't know, l'il Liza Jane,  
Way up north in \_\_\_\_\_, l'il Liza Jane.

5. Maybe Liza Jane isn't your sweetheart, maybe she's just a friend.  
Change the word "gal" to "friend", and sing the verse now.

I gotta friend that you don't know, l'il Liza Jane,  
Way up north in \_\_\_\_\_, l'il Liza Jane.

6. Maybe the friend's name isn't Liza Jane.

Maybe it's .....

Think of a name for your song.

If your friend isn't little, clap (X) instead of singing "l'il".

Selima?

Logan James?

Zoey Ann?

Rashid Joe?

I gotta friend that you don't know, X \_\_\_\_\_  
Way up north in \_\_\_\_\_, X \_\_\_\_\_.

7. And the last step is fitting your friend's name into the chorus.  
Remember if your friend isn't little, clap (X) instead of singing "l'il".



Oh E - li - za, li'l Li - za Jane, Oh E - li - za, li'l Li - za Jane.

Musician's Name \_\_\_\_\_

# I Gotta Friend

*Allegro*

The first line of musical notation is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. The tempo marking 'Allegro' is written above the staff. The melody consists of the following notes: quarter note G4, eighth note A4, eighth note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter rest, quarter note G4, quarter note F4, quarter note E4, and quarter note D4.

I got-ta friend that you don't know, X

The second line of musical notation is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody consists of the following notes: quarter note G4, eighth note A4, eighth note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4, and quarter note B3.

way up north in X

**Zip new words into "Li'l Liza Jane"!**

Key D, first note F#(mi), Pentatonic  
a cappella count-in: 1 2 1 gotta ...

**Li'l Liza Jane**

United States  
folksong  
arr: LJ Clare 2012

*Allegro*

I got-ta gal that you don't know, li'l Li - za Jane,  
Way down south in Bal - ti - more, li'l Li - za Jane.

1 The first word that jumps out to me needing a change is "Baltimore" because I live in Canada. And then there's that "I gotta gal", cause I don't "gotta gal". How about ...

I got-ta friend in Tor - on - to, li'l Li - za Jane,

And there are other places in Canada that would fit ... Tor-on-to, that a 3-clap word. Think of a place that takes "3-claps" to sing, and put it into your verse.

I got-ta friend in \_\_\_\_\_  
(3-clap place)

2 I don't like being called "little", so I'm going to clap instead of singing "li'l". In the music it means I need a rest, and often an "X" is used to show there's no word under the rest. The note is an eighth note, so I put in an eighth rest. You choose what to do for "li'l" in your song --keep it or change it.

And my friend's name is ... hmmm, 3-claps for Liza Jane, 3 claps for Sam-my Jo!

What is your friend's name? Does it fit the music?

li'l Liza Jane changes to X Sam-my Jo

3 Since the first line has the name of a place in it, I'll put something about my friend in to the second line. When you write your line, make sure there is only 1-clap under every note.

Way down south in Bal - ti - more, li'l Li - za Jane.  
Likes to play out in the snow, X Sam - my Jo

**Sing your song to somebody!**

# I Gotta Friend

*Allegro*

I got-ta friend in X

likes to X






**Choosing Rhythms for Words**

**1** Circle one of the big ideas found here.  
 food    sports    pets    ice cream    camping    creepy things

**2** Think of 5 words that fit into your big idea and print them here. \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Look at your words again.  
 Do you like all of them?  
 Are there any you want to change?  
 Make changes now. \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Fill in the chart below using your words.

Words	Rhythm Count Number of Claps	Show the Word in Rhythm Symbols	OR	Show a Different Set of Rhythm Symbols
example yellow	2	 2	OR	  1 + 1 = 2
			OR	
			OR	
			OR	
			OR	
			OR	
			OR	

<b>Rhythm Count</b>						
	1 clap	2 claps	4 claps	1 clap	1 clap	1 clap