

Unlock the Song Inside: Beginning Songwriting Workshop with Eli Conley  
Trans Voices Festival 2018

Image Generator

**Adjective**

**Noun**

**Location**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

**Unlock the Song Inside: Beginning Songwriting Workshop with Eli Conley  
Trans Voices Festival 2018**

**Rhyme Schemes**

**Rhyming words** are words that sound the same at the ends, like cat /hat or rhyming/climbing.

When a song has rhyming words at the end of lines, these are called **end rhymes**. Here is an example of end rhyme:

My cat is nice  
My cat likes mice

A **slant rhyme** is when the words sound similar, but don't exactly rhyme, like park /start or deep / creek.

A **rhyme scheme** is a way of describing the pattern of **end rhymes** in a song. Each new sound at the end of a line is given a letter, starting with "A," then "B," and so on. If the end of a line rhymes with an earlier line, it gets the same letter as the earlier line.

Here are three slightly different lyrics, each with a different **rhyme scheme**. The first is **AABB**, the second is **ABAB**, the third is **ABCB**.

My dog is <u>nice</u>	A	My dog is <u>nice</u>	A	My dog is <u>nice</u>	A
My dog likes <u>rice</u>	A	My dog is <u>fun</u>	B	My dog is <u>fun</u>	B
My dog is <u>fun</u>	B	My dog likes <u>rice</u>	A	My dog is <u>cute</u>	C
She loves the <u>sun</u>	B	She loves the <u>sun</u>	B	She loves the <u>sun</u>	B

**Exercise: For each song excerpt, identify the rhyme scheme and write it next to the lyrics.**

**Try Again at Everything by Rae Spoon**

I will wear your grandmother's ring \_\_\_\_\_  
And try again at everything \_\_\_\_\_  
And I do not trust the ground \_\_\_\_\_  
but I float above it when you're around \_\_\_\_\_

**The Rain by Star Amerasu**

I want the rain to fall \_\_\_\_\_  
To take away my pain \_\_\_\_\_  
I want the cleansing waters \_\_\_\_\_  
To clear out my brain \_\_\_\_\_  
Let it pour \_\_\_\_\_  
I can ignore \_\_\_\_\_  
The feelings inside are getting dark \_\_\_\_\_  
I think it's time for us to part \_\_\_\_\_

**Thorn In Your Side by Namoli Brennet**

I'm not the thorn in your side \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm not the break in your heart \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm not the speck in your eye \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm not the falling apart \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm not the floor \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm not the ceiling \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm not the fear \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm not the fear \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm not the feeling \_\_\_\_\_

**Dead Key by Geo Wyeth**

I ain't dead I'm just on a vacation \_\_\_\_\_  
I got a car it stumbles through the station \_\_\_\_\_  
Underneath your bed \_\_\_\_\_  
And the murders in your street \_\_\_\_\_  
Underneath the Algonquin dirt \_\_\_\_\_  
I went in deep \_\_\_\_\_

## Unlock the Song Inside: Beginning Songwriting Workshop with Eli Conley Trans Voices Festival 2018

### Setting Words to Melody

To write a strong melody for a chorus or refrain, sing it so it mirrors the meaning of the words!

#### **A great example:**

I try to say goodbye and I choke / try to walk away and I stumble / though I try to hide it, it's clear / My world crumbles when you are not near – Macy Gray

#### **Techniques**

- Pick the most important word. Make that note the highest or the longest held note in the line.
  - She wore a raspberry beret – Prince
  - I can't make you love me if you don't – Bonnie Raitt
  - Oh, won't you stay with me? / Cause you're all I need / This ain't love, it's clear to see / But, darling, stay with me – Sam Smith
  
- Speak the line and see where the natural stresses fall. Mirror how you'd speak the line.
  - Give me one reason to stay here and I'll turn right back around – Tracy Chapman
  - How do I live without you, I want to know / How do I breathe without you, if you ever go / How do I ever, ever survive / How do I, how do I / Oh, how do I live – By Dianne Warren, recorded by LeAnn Rimes
  
- If the line has directional words or words that involve movement, match the melodic line to that.
  - Don't leave me high, don't leave me dry – Radiohead
  - I would teach my feet to fly – Joni Mitchell
  - I keep on falling in and out of love with you – Alicia Keys
  - Stop! In the name of love – by Holland Dozier Holland, recorded by The Supremes
  
- Do the opposite!
  - I went down down down in the ring of fire – Johnny Cash
  - And she's climbing a stairway to heaven – Led Zeppelin
  
- Ironic – If you have sad or mad words, use happy music or vice versa.
  - You told me once dear, you really loved me / And no one else could come between / But now you've left me and you love another / You have shattered all my dreams – You Are My Sunshine, Folk Song
  - Tried to make me go to rehab but I said no no no - Amy Winehouse
  
- Repeat the most important line.
  - Say my name, Say my name / When no one is around you / Say baby I love you / if you ain't running game – Destiny's Child
  - Cry me a river / Cry me a river – Justin Timberlake