PRACTICAL SONGWRITING IDEAS FOR MUSIC TEACHERS!

1. Rhyme Time
Pick a topic to write about, (for example, 'love') and create rhyming patterns. The most common ones are AABB, ABAB, ABCABC - but you can create your own ones! It’s fun to try and switch between perfect rhymes and near perfect rhymes. Challenge yourself to do as many as you can!

Example
I hate it when we’re apart - A
But you’re always in my heart - A
You’ve taken up a big place - B
And from my heart you won’t be erased - B

2. Song Title Inspiration
If you can’t think of a subject or an idea to write a song about then choose 5 items from your bedroom. Write these objects down and think of some associated words to create your song title!

For example:
Bed = Safe Haven
Guitar = Broken Strings
Window = What Do You See?

You can then begin to write lyrics based on the title of your song!

3. The ‘Cutting Up’ Technique
Find a magazine or a newspaper, cut out some phrases, words or headlines from them and piece them together to make some lyrics. David Bowie and Kurt Cobain were big fans of this method. The phrases in the newspaper will probably be totally different from your own, but it’s good to push yourself and write in a different way, and get out of habits that you might have. You can always add more of your own words if you want to!

4. Rewrite Your Favourite Song
Pick your favourite song - and rewrite it in YOUR words! Don’t worry about the lyrics fitting to the original melody, this is your version of the song and you can create a new melody to it. Every song has been written before but what makes them special and different is how YOU say it.

5. Object Writing
Pick a word/have someone give you a word (for example, 'time') then write down or type whatever comes to mind when you think of that word for 10 minutes. Do not let your pen come off the paper - if you get stuck you can even write ‘I am stuck’, anything goes, be creative, there are no limits! In this exercise you aren’t necessarily writing lyrics, you are writing about a certain word (in sentences). Once the time is up look back and see if there are any key words/phrases/sentences that you have written that could be used as song lyrics.

VISIT WWW.SONGACADEMY.CO.UK/ TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SONG ACADEMY

& BE HEARD
EXPRESS YOURSELF
HELPING EVERY CHILD FIND THEIR VOICE
SONGS TO INSPIRE YOU!

CLICK HERE FOR THE SPOTIFY PLAYLIST
CLICK HERE FOR THE YOUTUBE PLAYLIST

POP
I Will Always Love You by Whitney Houston
Love Story by Taylor Swift
Thriller by Michael Jackson
Crazy in Love by Beyoncé
We Found Love by Calvin Harris featuring Rihanna
Shallow by Lady Gaga
Leave Right Now by Will Young
Bad Guy by Billie Eilish
Losing You by Solange
Shape of You by Ed Sheeran
Someone Like You by Adele
Get Lucky by Daft Punk featuring Pharrell Williams
Round Round by Sugababes
Hands Up by Merk & Kremont featuring DNCE
Heal by Tom Odell
Happiness by McFly

ROCK
Somebody That I Used To Know by Gotye featuring Kimbra
Tempted by Squeeze
Mr Brightside by The Killers
Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen
Paranoid Android by Radiohead
Counting Stars by OneRepublic
Friday I'm In Love by The Cure
The Chain by Fleetwood Mac
When Doves Cry by Prince
Stuck In The Middle With You by Stealers Wheel
Comfortably Numb by Pink Floyd
Wonderwall by Oasis
If We Were Vampires by Jason Isbell
When The Sun Goes Down by Arctic Monkeys
Johnny Got A Boom Boom by Imelda May
Loner by Yungblud

HIP HOP/RAP
Gangsta's Paradise by Coolio featuring L.V.
Own It by Stormzy featuring Ed Sheeran and Burna Boy
Man Don't Care by JME featuring Giggs
One Dance by Drake featuring Wizkid and Kyla
Down With The Trumpets by Rizzle Kicks
Milkshake by Kelis
Take What You Want by Post Malone featuring Ozzy Osbourne and Travis Scott
It's Like That by Mariah Carey featuring Fatman Scoop and Jermaine Dupri
Jump Around by House of Pain
Old Town Road by Lil Nas X featuring Billy Ray Cyrus
Yeah by Usher featuring Lil Jon and Ludacris
Stop Killing The Mandem by Novelist
Intergalactic by Beastie Boys
Doo Wop (That Thing) by Lauryn Hill

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVERY SONG IN THE PLAYLIST!