

General Music Terms

Melody: The tune of a song. In technical terms, it's a series of musical notes or tones arranged in a definite pattern of pitch and rhythm. It's usually the main (and most memorable) part of a musical composition. When you're whistling a tune, what you're whistling is the melody.

I liked the melody of that song so much that I can't stop humming it as I work!

Lyrics – The words in a song.

Because I spent a lot of time writing poetry, coming up with lyrics is easy for me.

Verse - A verse is a repeated melody that has different lyrics each time around. Verses provide the listener with more depth and understanding as they move the song forward. A simple song structure is verse – chorus – verse – chorus, etc.

We were able to write two solid verses to our song but it felt like we should come up with one more to really tell the story.



Chorus – A repeated section of a song that typically follows each verse. It's usually the emotional high point. Unlike verses that change lyrics each time around, a chorus is generally the same each time it's sung.

I can't remember the verses to that song but I've been singing the chorus over and over in the shower at the top of my lungs!

Pitch - The pitch describes how low (think of a bass guitar) or high (think of a flute) a note sounds. But pitch isn't only found in music. If you listen to the world around you, everything has its own pitch. Bigger things tend to have a lower pitch (think buses and cows) and smaller things tend to have a higher pitch (think birds and little bells).

I can practice pitch by saying a word in a "high," squeaky voice like a mouse, and in a "low," deep voice like a whale.

Hook – This is a catchy moment that helps make a song memorable. It's a musical idea, riff, or lyric phrase that's repeated throughout the song.

That saxophone hook has been stuck in my head all day!

Beat – The beat is the steady pulse that you feel in the tune, like a clock's tick. In hip-hop terminology, the beat usually refers to the backing track – the drums, bass, and additional sounds that people rap over.

It didn't take long before everyone in the class was nodding their head to the beat.



A Measure/Bar - In basic terms, it's usually a musical line with a count of four.

Once I learned how easy it is to count bars, I started rapping all day every day.

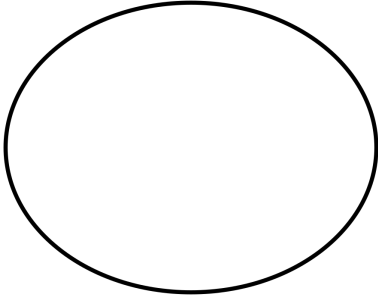
Call & Response – This refers to a musical conversation between a leader and the group in which the leader sings a line (the call) and the ensemble sings a line back (the response). Call and response as we know it originated in West Africa. It can be heard in gospel, sea shanties, hip-hop, and many other genres of music.

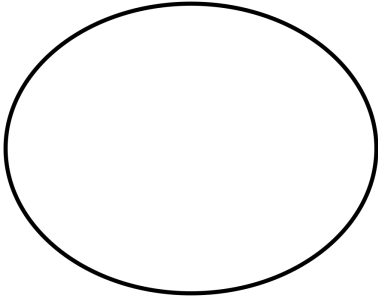
After everyone came up with a short phrase to call out, we responded to each one by singing the words "Who's on First?" It was a great way for us to create and experience a simple call-and-response song.

Tempo - The speed of the music, the pace.

The tempo of the song was nice and slow. As I listened on my headphones, I took long and gentle steps through the park.

My Music Terms

Vocabulary Word 	Definition/Synonyms
Use it in a sentence:	Draw a picture:

Vocabulary Word 	Definition/Synonyms
Use it in a sentence:	Draw a picture:

Melody

Lyrics

Verse

Chorus

Pitch

Hook

Beat

Measure

Bar

**Call and
Response**

Tempo