

Word Wall Vocabulary

Music & Songwriting Words & Definitions

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.

- *For example, "That saxophone hook has been stuck in my head all day!"*

Call and 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.

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."*

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."*

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 in a musical composition. When you're whistling a tune, what you're whistling is the melody.

- *"Although the melody of that song got stuck in my head, it was the dream-like lyrics that really moved me."*

Lyrics - The words in a song.

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

Rhyme - A rhyme is a repetition of similar sounds (often the exact same phonemes) in the final stressed syllables and any following syllables of two or more words. Songwriters and poets often use this kind of rhyming consciously for a musical or aesthetic effect in where the lines land in songs or poems.

- *When I sing my song my friends want to sing along / When I sing my tune I feel as bright as the moon.*

Feel - Is the underlying pulse or rhythmic energy of the music. It's the emotion one might experience when listening to music.

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Bulletin Board Materials

Hook

Call &

Response

Beat