

SONG FORMS

Cognitive and Curricular Uses

Every song that exists is built on a musical and linguistic framework that contains rhythm, melody, meter, and linguistic logic, poetry, and patterning. These elements together create song forms that deliver information in phrases and stanzas that the human mind easily integrates and remembers. Songs teach the ear to hear, the mouth to speak, and the heart to sing. GITC also employs songs to teach the mind to think and remember. Songs, like poems, encapsulate ideas and emphasize major themes through repetition and crescendo. Too, they provide poignant and memorable details, triggering the memory and stimulating a variety of important cognitive responses. Below are the song forms central to GITC's instruction along with some of the cognitive benefits and curricular applications. Not every song form is included in the chart below. This grant will allow Guitars in the Classroom to elaborate on songforms further, and to implement them in new curriculum.

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CONNECTIONS TO ACADEMIC CONTENT									
SONG FORM	EXAMPLES	DESCRIPTION	COGNITIVE APPLICATIONS	LANGUAGE ARTS	SOCIAL STUDIES	MATHEMATICS	SCIENCE	SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL	GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
SUBSTITUTION	"Bingo Was His Name" "This Old Man" "I'm On My Way To Freedom Land"	Lyric writers choose a content standard related function for a new version of the song, then substitute new words for current one in key locations in order to present content based ideas. Each newly embedded lyric is easily committed to memory.	Thematic Thought Rote Memorization Whole-to-Parts Understanding Sequencing	Rhyming Phonemic Awareness Descriptive Language Spelling Parts of Speech	Visualization and Memorization of Historical Dates, Figures, and Events	Sequence of Basic Operations Math Facts Simple Equations	Scientific Names Abbreviations Formulas Environmental Conditions	Feeling Words Manners	Any subject area that contains categorical lists
PARTS TO WHOLE	"The Wheels on The Bus" "If You're Happy and You Know It"	The song presents a whole concept such as a bus, or feelings, and every line of each verse presents descriptors of a part, and each verse details a different part. When the song is sung through, the parts add up to the whole.	Noticing and Describing Details Conceptual Understanding Inductive Reasoning	Parts of Speech Phonemes Diphthongs Compound Words Phrases Sentence Structure	Parts of the Family Community Government Map Skills	Number Concepts	Parts of Anatomy Plants Weather Seasons Environments	Feelings Social Rules Getting Along Ways to Show Respect	Times of the day Days of the week Months of the Year
WHOLE TO PARTS ADD-ON	"Old McDonald Had a Farm" "The Green Grass Grows All Around" "I Had a Cat"	Whole to parts songs present a whole concept and picture such as a farm or a tree. At the beginning of each new verse, the singer-songwriter adds a descriptor, cumulatively detailing the concept or picture. At the end of each verse, she recites all the "add-ons" in reverse order.	Memorization Sequencing of Information Deductive Reasoning	Storytelling Spelling Rules Descriptive Language	Historical Reporting Explorers Adventure Travel Geography	Sequence of Operations Equations Factoring	Cause-and-Effect Environments Ecology Physics Predicting Outcomes	Routines Hygiene Independence (ability to remember what to do)	Making connections in the world/community Remembering Address, Emergency Routines, Phone Number, ETC..
STORY SONGS	"Sweet Betsey from Pike" "The Battle of New Orleans" "The Ballad of Harriet Tubman"	Story songs reveal a sequence of events in narrative form from a first or third person point of view. They have traditionally been used to transmit oral history or to teach through example or parable. Some are nonsensical, others metaphorical. They can evoke empathy for the characters and help students make a deeper connection to the embedded academic content.	Deepening student connection to content, details, life lessons, compassion.	Storytelling Poetic Meter & Rhyme Descriptive Language	Detailed Historical Knowledge Myths & Legends Time Periods	Word Problems Mathematics applied to the musical composition itself	Scientific Discoveries Heroes Scientific History	Independence Creativity Character Moral Reasoning Problem Solving	Origins of Society
ANTHEMIC/MESSAGE	"Don't Worry, Be Happy" "We are the World" "With My Own Two Hands"	Anthem songs communicate allegiance to a singular theme such as peace, love, patriotism, nostalgia, or a loved one. Any details about the theme are buried in verses. The chorus of an anthem is what everyone remembers and loves to sing in unison.	Thematic Comprehension Personal and Group Motivation	Expository Writing Editorial Writing Descriptive Language	Social Change Movements Art Reflecting Social Unrest Human Rights	Mathematics applied to the musical composition itself	Songs related to Environmental Activism and Ecology	Being Effective Taking Personal Responsibility Social Awareness and Activism Altruism and Compassion	Coping Strategies for Life
NON-SENSE	"Old Joe Clark" "Willoughby Wallaby Woo"	Nonsense songs combine rhyming, and funny characters with words that describe something irrational. Nonsense vocabulary includes onomatopoeia. These songs evoke laughter because they defy children's expectations and teach what is right by presenting what is wrong.	Auditory Processing Language Learning Logic Humor Thematic Comprehension	Rhyming Phonemic Awareness Vocabulary Descriptive Language Irony	American history (traditional nonsense songs such as "Old Joe Clark" are numerous and come from early American culture.)	Basic Operations	Actions and Illogical Consequences Telling False from True	Humor Acceptable Social Behavior and Manners	The value of these songs can mostly be found in Language Learning.
SPIRITUALS AND BLUES	"I'm On My Way" "O Freedom" "Sweet Home Chicago"	Blues & Spirituals are sometimes a form of storysong. They reveal the emotional state of the singer and explain the circumstances that have caused these feelings. Although the songs are sometimes about sad subjects, the singing of them relieves the suffering of the singer by making his troubles known to others through song.	Cause & Effect Emotional Intelligence	Meter Repetition Descriptive Language Grammar (Slang) Dialects Extension of Literature (Writing from POV of Historical Figure)	African-American History Slavery Civil Rights Historical Social Decisions and their Consequences	Logical Consequences Basic Operations Story Problems Math Inherent in Musical Form of Blues	Hypotheses and Results	Hardship Suffering Sadness Courage Self-Expression Determination	Societal Roles Logical Consequences Religious Beliefs