

SONG CREATION WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

1. Create a brief summary of your lyric idea on the worksheet and add some detail around the that might suggest a scene or point-of-view
2. Grab your thesaurus and look up a word in the back alphabetical portion that describes your idea. This example uses Roget's International, a non-dictionary style.
 - a. For example, if your lyric idea is about the pain of a decision and subsequent regret, you would look up "regret."
 - b. You would find the nouns: REMORSE (113.1), REGRETS (113.1), APOLOGY (658.2), and the verb DEPLORE (113.6).
 - c. Choose one that fits with your lyric idea and go to the corresponding number indicated in the thesaurus
 - d. I chose REGRET – there you'll find not only the word REMORSE, but another whole column of words. Start going through them and writing down any you think may work for your song. If you find one that might fit your song better, look it up in the back and go down a rabbit trail (not a hole – a trail).
 - e. There are also interesting words near REGRET: like LAMENTATION, SADNESS, SOLEMNITY – and opposites like REJOICING. Depending on your lyric idea, these may have place in your song even if they weren't part of your original idea. Would they make the song more interesting? This is a great path to explore new approaches and grow the idea of your song.
3. Write down all of the words you think might have merit, then start cutting it down. Refine the connections by choosing words that will work well together but have different vowel sounds in their stressed syllables. This will help create rhyming variety in your song, so you don't end up with: "when it snows / I want to blow my nose." Not a crowd pleaser.
4. Write down 8 to 12 words you want to keep into the top grey portion of the worksheet (blank lines numbered 1 – 12). Are these the best choices? If not, erase and put others in. When you're satisfied, transfer the words in the grey box to the corresponding number below the box. For example, if APOLOGIZE is in position #1 in the grey box, move it next to the number one in the main body of the worksheet with blank lines under it.
5. Now, look up each word in your rhyming dictionary and select words that connect with your lyric idea. Do this for all 8 – 12 words on the worksheet.

Now start writing your song!!

While this process may seem tedious at first, it comes faster as you use it. And, you'll find idea connections and rhymes you probably never would have thought of on your own. It's a nice way to follow a process and up your variety quotient as well.

Next is an example using a real song I've been working on called "Shining Knight" followed by some blank templates for you to print and use as part of your songwriting process.

For reference, following is an excerpt from object writing notebook I keep got this song idea started: A couple going through life, an elderly man and his wife are walking down the sidewalk. It is cold and they're wrapped in heavy coats. He's holding her hand, as if they're still in their twenties. They're back in high school – him in varsity jacket, her in her blue dress. They could have dated other people, but that's not what happened in those days. There were hard times, arguments, cheating, then the baby came and a young girl became a mother. He came back from the war a different man, not the man she had dreamed about as a little girl – her knight in shining armor – a fairytale life: the perfect man to a live a perfect life with . . . chorus – tie to fairytale (book)

SONG WORKSHEET

Working Title: *Your Knight*

SONG SUMMARY

Man realizes he's disappointed his wife, and not been the man she imagined him to be "I probably spent too much time hanging out with the guys, drinking, forgetting you were sitting right next to me, or worse, at home alone, invisible. It's not that I stopped loving you. I just don't know how to show it. You give so much, and I give almost nothing back. I don't know why you see in me, or why you even love me. I know I'm not the man you dreamed of as a girl – but I live my life knowing you're part of my world. Maybe one day I can be the knight in shining armor for you – the one you see in me."

THESAURUS WORD SELECTION

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. knight | 6. worthy | 11. I am |
| 2. amazed | 7. hero | 12. perfect |
| 3. mend | 8. turn around | |
| 4. lost time | 9. forgive | |
| 5. regret | 10. ideal | |

WORD RHYME SELECTIONS

1. knight

white
night
light
fight
midnight
strike
type

2. amazed

raised
change

3. mend

bend
defend
pretend
depend
transcend
end
intend
consent

4. lost time

climb
shine
sign
lifeline
dime

5. regret

met
forget
silhouette
wreck
footstep
threat

6. worthy

knee
apology
bravery
plea
chivalry
agony

7. hero

Romeo
grow
depot

8. turn around

(sun) down
wedding gown
night gown
ground
found
(spell) bound
town
drown
breakdown

9. forgive

outlive
sensitive
live
alternative
hid

10. ideal

wheel
conceal
heal
steel/steal
feel

11. am

began
outran
man
span

12. perfect

breath
death
connect
reflect
collect
affect
respect

SONG WORKSHEET

Working Title: _____

SONG SUMMARY

THESAURUS WORD SELECTION

1. _____	7. _____
2. _____	8. _____
3. _____	9. _____
4. _____	10. _____
5. _____	11. _____
6. _____	12. _____

WORD RHYME SELECTIONS

1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

SONG WORKSHEET

Working Title: _____

(cont'd.)

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

