

This worksheet will help you create interesting end-rhymes and perhaps find a few unusual rabbit trails to explore for your song idea.

1 WRITE OUT THE STORY – DON'T RHYME IT YET!

- Go ahead and write out the song story in line form.
- Don't worry about rhyming things – this worksheet will help with that.
- Decide on your overall emotional theme: is it joy, happiness, sadness, regret, etc.
- Write down that word in the top left corner of the worksheet.

TIP:

Keep your rhyming dictionary handy throughout writing the song, even after you complete the first pass of this worksheet.

2 FIND NEW OPTIONS FOR THE WORDS ENDING YOUR LINES

Look up the main emotional theme word you wrote in the upper left corner. This example uses Roget's International, a non-dictionary style thesaurus. I use it versus a dictionary style because they tend to give you more options to engage with at each step. But a dictionary style will work.

Here's an example of how the process works:

- Let's say your lyric idea is about the pain of a decision and subsequent regret, you would look up "regret."
- You'll find the nouns: REMORSE (113.1), REGRETS (113.1), APOLOGY (658.2), and the verb DEPLORE (113.6).
- Choose one of the words that fits with your lyric idea and go to the corresponding number indicated in the thesaurus.
- I chose REGRET
- I found 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).

TIP:

There are also interesting words near REGRET: like LAMENTATION, SADNESS, SOLEMNITY and opposites like REJOICING.

Depending on your lyric idea, these may have a 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 COLLECT YOUR WORD OPTIONS

- Write down all of the words you think might have merit based on your emotional theme word.
- Also write down any words you think will fit with the idea each of your lines is trying to communicate.
- Start cutting down your list by removing words that have bad rhyming options – low possibilities.

TIP:

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 LET'S START RHYMING!

- Write down 8 to 12 words you want to keep on the lines numbered 1 to 12.
- Are these the best choices? If not, erase and put others in.
- When you're satisfied, bust out the rhyming dictionary!
- 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.

5 AS YOU REFINE YOUR LYRICS – KEEP USING THE WORKSHEET!

- Add the end words from any new lyrics to any open numbers on your current worksheet, or start a new worksheet and follow the same process.
- And don't forget rhyme families! Close rhymes are a great way to creating interesting end rhymes.
- For help with rhyme families, check out this article on SongChops.com

Working Title: _____

WORD RHYME SELECTIONS

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

