

Lesson
3

Words and Music

New Words

abundant	brisk	collaborate
compose	frustrating	lyric
masterpiece	melancholy	melody
	popular	

Words from Previous Lessons

Lesson 1	plodding
Lesson 2	experiment, modify, predict, brilliant, construct, evolve

Activating Knowledge

Ask your students these questions before reading the passages:

- Where are some places where you hear or listen to music?
- What is your favorite song? Can you sing any of it or know the words? What do you like most about the song? How does it make you feel when you hear it?
- What words would you use to describe a song (write these on the board for possible later association with new words)?
- What do you think would be the most difficult thing about writing a song?
- If you were going to write a song, what would you write about?

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The Movies' Mystery Man

for *The Music Times* by
Melanie Clef

Stuart Mackey has played a big part in some big-time movies, but you've probably never heard his name. Mr. Mackey isn't an actor or a director, but his work appears in many **popular** films.

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He's a **composer** who has created an **abundant** number of pieces for the screen. I talked with him about his work and how he goes about it.

"My job is to construct **melodies** that match the mood of the action," he says. "If it's a sad scene, I'll write a **melancholy** tune. If there's a lot of action, I'll make the music **brisk** and loud."

He finds that some scenes are easier to write for than others. Mr. Mackey says, "Sometimes the music comes to you

right away, but other times it's **frustrating** because you don't know what to write for a scene. That's when you have to experiment until you find something that fits."

Mr. Mackey usually **composes** music alone, but that's not always the case. "I do like to **collaborate** with other musicians," he says. "I'll often have them listen to what I've written and see if they have any ideas for improving it. If their modifications are good, I'll make their changes."

There's another way Mr. Mackey will **collaborate** with another writer. "I don't do **lyrics**," he says. "If a film's director wants a song with words, I'll call somebody else in. I'm no good with words."

Does working on such successful movies make Mr. Mackey proud? "It's nice to be a part of these big projects," he says. "But I'm not writing **masterpieces**. I just want to add something to a film that makes it more fun or interesting to watch."



TuneCrafters

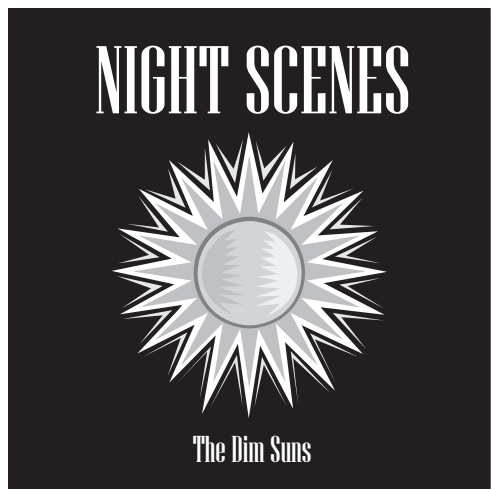
You give us the lyrics; We write the tunes!

Watch your silent poem jump off the page and evolve into a musical masterpiece. Our musicians and singers will collaborate to create a brilliant new song using your words.

You'll receive a finished CD in just ten days.

\$129.95 for first song
\$89.95 for second

Is there a poem you've composed
You want to make into a song?
We'll provide the melody
And then you can sing along!



Album Review:
Night Scenes
by The Dim Suns

The music of The Dim Suns perfectly matches the name of the band. If you like **brisk**, lively **melodies**, this is not the band—or the album—for you. But if you enjoy **melancholy** songs and plodding beats, you'll listen to *Night Scenes* over and over.

The Dim Suns have been **popular** since their first release, *A Quiet Breath*, and fans will definitely love *Night Scenes*. The band uses an **abundant** collection of instruments and almost no **lyrics** to create very long, slow, sad songs. If you like your music light and fast, you'll find nothing but **frustration** in this album. If you're already a fan of The Dim Suns, though, I predict you'll enjoy this new **masterpiece** of **melancholy**.

Definitions

abundant

(adjective)

- *definition:* many
- *usage tip:* when talking about a very large number of things
- *correct:* There are an abundant number of students in our school who have brown hair.
- *incorrect:* I have **abundant** parents.

brisk

(adjective)

- *definition:* fast tempo (speed), quick
- *usage tip:* when something is quick, but not super fast
- *correct:* My dad takes a **brisk** walk every morning.
- *incorrect:* The race car driver drove a **brisk** race.

collaborate

(verb)

- *definition:* work together
- *usage tip:* when two or more people do a project or solve a problem together
- *correct:* Our class will **collaborate** to create a new mural for the hall.
- *incorrect:* I will **collaborate** on my homework tonight.

compose

(verb)

- *definition:* write or create
- *usage tip:* when someone creates a piece of music or a poem
- *correct:* Did he **compose** all of the music himself?
- *incorrect:* I will **compose** a math problem for my teacher.

frustrating

(adjective)

- *definition:* discouraging, annoying
- *usage tip:* when you want to do something but can't get it done
- *correct:* It was **frustrating** trying to do math without an eraser.
- *incorrect:* Eating cereal without milk is **frustrating**.

lyrics

(noun)

- *definition:* the words to a song
- *usage tip:* when talking about words to a song
- *correct:* I don't like the **lyrics** to that song.
- *incorrect:* Can you play the **lyrics** on the piano?

masterpiece

(noun)

- *definition:* a great or important piece of work
- *usage tip:* when something is truly great, not just good
- *correct:* The museum is full of many **masterpieces**.
- *incorrect:* It only took five minutes to write my **masterpiece** for English class.

Finish the Thought

1. The band knew an **abundant** number of songs, but _____

2. Rodney ran a **brisk** race, but he _____

3. Angie and Madison were able to **collaborate** on _____

4. Mr. Rodriguez **composed** a special _____ for _____

5. The kids' grandma found it **frustrating** to _____

6. He wrote the **lyrics** to the song about _____

7. Our class saw several **masterpieces** when we _____

8. Our teacher was feeling **melancholy** because _____

9. The music teacher says the **melody** of the song reminds him of _____

10. Even though the song was **popular**, Cassidy thought it _____

Yes or No?

Circle Yes or No to answer each question. Be ready to give reasons for your answer.

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Would someone be happy to receive an abundant amount of money? | Yes | No |
| 2. Would a melancholy song have a brisk tempo? | Yes | No |
| 3. Could two people collaborate to write a song? | Yes | No |
| 4. Could someone compose a masterpiece in a few seconds? | Yes | No |
| 5. Would it be frustrating to be indoors on a very cold day? | Yes | No |
| 6. Could lyrics rhyme? | Yes | No |
| 7. Could a masterpiece also be popular ? | Yes | No |
| 8. Can a melody be spoken? | Yes | No |
| 9. Would you feel melancholy about getting a gift? | Yes | No |
| 10. Are popular movies seen by lots of people? | Yes | No |
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In Your Own Words

1. What's something besides money you would like to have an **abundant** amount of?
2. What is a song with a **brisk** tempo?
3. What is something you've **collaborated** with others to do?
4. What would you like to **compose** a song about?
5. What is something you find **frustrating** to do?
6. What are some **lyrics** from song you like?
7. What do you think makes something a **masterpiece**?
8. What's something that makes you feel **melancholy**?
9. Hum the **melody** of a favorite song.
10. What's something that's **popular** that you don't like?