ITEMS NEEDED:
- Paper
- Pen/Pencil

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION: We listen to songs all the time. Someone created the words or lyrics! This is a challenge to write lyrics to a song!

Step One: Select an object in or around your house, such as a toaster, a trashcan, a cell phone, etc.

Step Two: Describe your object using all the senses. Set a timer for 15 minutes to push your creative juices! Write as many short sentences or statements as you can for each category below.

- Sight
- Sound
- Smell
- Touch
- Motion
- Feelings

Step Three: Describe the daily experiences of the object using all of your senses. Does it get moved around or stay in one place? Describe the goals or dreams that object might have if it were alive. For example, “The toaster wants even heat.”

Step Four: Select your favorite ideas or lines you have created so far!

Step Five: Put the ideas together into a storyline. Make it rhyme if you want (each line ends with the same sound, for example night, light, right). Repeat steps 1-5 for a different object then combine the storylines of the two objects together. Have fun!

Step Six: Divide your song into verses. Each verse adds important details to the story. Add a chorus-this is the fun catchy part that repeats the main message of the song.

Step Seven: Count the syllables in each verse. A syllable is a unit of pronunciation that has one vowel sound. For example: wa-ter is two syllables, la-dy-bug is three. You can count out your syllables on your fingers for each line. “The toas-ter wants e-ven heat” is seven syllables long. For an added challenge, make each line the same syllable length.

Step Eight: Now that we made it this far, we can incorporate some rhythm. Start saying your lines out loud! We are going to highlight your stressed (BUM) and unstressed (ba) syllables.

- “The toas-ter wants e-ven heat” = ba BUM ba ba BUM ba ba
- “A- pply the jam lav- ish- ly” = ba BUM ba ba BUM ba ba

Step Nine: Sing it, record it, share it, submit it to Iowa 4-H. We would love to see and hear your creations!

Project areas are topics that 4-H members can learn about on their own, with a friend, at a club meeting, or at 4-H events. To learn more about the project areas you can explore in 4-H, please use our free resources online at https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/15266.

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