

BELONGINGS

THEME: HOW DOES SINGING TOGETHER HELP US GET THROUGH HARD TIMES?



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- Listen to a few examples of famous folk songs or well-known melodies: Drunken Sailor, This Old Man, Oh When the Saints would all work well.
- Make a list or mind map of what makes such songs effective and why people might sing them. You could think about the use of positive lyrics to help them feel better when in hardship, catchy melodies, easy to sing etc. Have a look at videos of people singing together while under quarantine as further examples of where music has brought people together under hardship. Some examples are here and here.
- Watch the clips from *Belongings* - a marching song (We Won't be There Tomorrow 5:10 - 6:12), a 'game' song to have fun (Red Front Door 20:04 - 21:52) and a lullaby (Have You Seen the Place 35:58 - 37:40), and think about why these are so successful in the context of the story.
- Listen to the first four lines of Red Front Door and write down the words. Learn the music by listening to the piece on the YouTube video.
- Record yourself singing the short extract.
- Come up with a clear intention for the piece (happy memories of home, things you'd portray? Write your own verse - who is in your hallway? Think of their name and relationship to you. What are they wearing? What mood are they in? Write out the first verse (Rafi's verse in the clip) and shadow the number of syllables so it fits the music.
- Improvise your own tune to fit in with the music.
- Record yourself singing the chorus that you have learnt and your newly written verse. If you can, perform it to someone in your household or ask for feedback on the recording you have made.

EXTENSION TASK - LISTENING, READING, WRITING

Research a further folk song/lullaby, other than any mentioned. Make notes on where it came from, what sort of people sing it, any other interesting points, as well as your own opinions on its effectiveness. Create a presentation with your research.