

**RUSTY  
ACTIVITY!**

## RUSTY'S TIME TRAVELLING ADVENTURES



# MUSICAL STORYTELLING

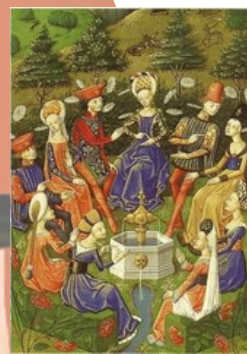
Rusty the Dog has been travelling in time and you can explore with him through his activity packs and videos. You can also read stories of his adventures on the Weston Museum website.

Rusty has noticed that storytelling is something that people have been doing for thousands of years. Long before people could write they would gather and tell stories about brave warriors and dangerous lands. Storytelling is important because it can tell us about what it was like living in a different time, passing on cultural knowledge and shared beliefs.

### TASK 1 - WATCH THE VIDEO OF MUSICAL STORYTELLING

Head to Weston Museum's YouTube Channel or click on the link on the Weston Museum website.

Watch the video 'Musical Storytelling Through Time' to explore ballads and songs from the Medieval to the modern.



### TASK 2 - MAKE UP YOUR OWN SONG

Explore musical storytelling through making up your own version of a Medieval ballad or a modern rap song.



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# MUSICAL STORYTELLING

### WRITE A BALLAD

Over time, story telling progressed and the gift of telling stories through poetry, with or without simple musical verses, became increasingly popular. These are collectively called 'Ballads'.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" in 1798. It is very long with many verses and tells the story of a sailor's adventure. He shoots an albatross which spells disaster for the crew.

Lyrical ballads like this and the two in the video (details on first page) have a rhythm and a rhyming pattern to them. Look at which words rhyme to spot the pattern.



line		Rhyme pattern	
1	I wandered lonely as a cloud	a	cloud
2	That floats on high o'er vales and hills,	b	Hills
3	When all at once I saw a crowd,	a	crowd
4	A host, of golden daffodils;	b	dils



Here are the first 4 lines of the poem you heard on the video, 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud', written by William Wordsworth. He had been on a walk with his sister Dorothy and he was moved to write this poem. Wordsworth wrote his poem with 6 lines in each verse but we are going to keep it simple with 4 lines.



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## MUSICAL STORYTELLING

### INSTRUCTIONS

The rules:

- Each verse needs 4 lines
- There should be rhyming at the end of lines but they don't need to have the same spelling patterns. Eg dead and fled. This can be line 1 and 3 (a) and or 2 and 4 (b)
- There should be a story told
- There needs to be at least 3 verses
- To get you started you might like to use:

*My mother says it's time for bed  
At the wrong place in my game*



line	Verse 1	
1	My mother says it's time for bed	A
2	At the wrong place in my game	B
3		A
4		B

- For line 3 what words rhyme with bed; instead, dead, fled, shed
- For line 4 what rhymes with game; name, shame, vain, pain.
- What other words fit with your story plan?
- Verse 2 and 3 can begin with line 1 and show how your story unfolds.



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# **MUSICAL STORYTELLING**

### **RAPS - THE MODERN BALLADS!**

Modern musicians today write songs using the ballad format and they also put poetry to music. This is known as RAP.

RAP stands for Rhythm and Poetry.

An example you can listen to online is by DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince. "Parents Just Don't Understand".

A 16 year old boy, his mum, dad and brother all go shopping to buy clothes for school; they don't agree on what is most suitable. The story teller wants more fashionable clothes but the parents just don't understand.

\*Note for adults: This is an example that children can listen to but some RAP is only suitable for adults due to its nature and content.



*The  
**Fresh  
Prince**  
of Bel-Air*



### **WRITE A RAP SONG**

Historically, traditional African music had a strong rhythmic base with a story or poem told over the top.

RAP music first became popular in the United States in the 1970's when DJ's developed a technique for making the percussion breaks in songs longer and talking over them.

Would you like to try to write your own RAP song?

Your 'story' can be about something that annoys you or makes you angry as that fits with RAP Music style. Remember the R and P stand for rhythm and poetry. The rhythm is very important.



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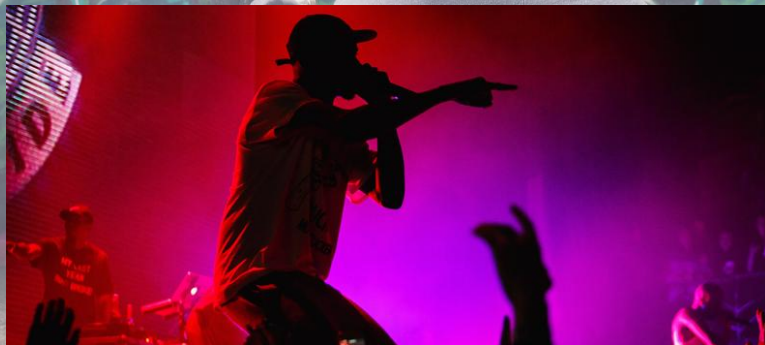


# MUSICAL STORYTELLING

Go to your room!  
Go to your room she says each day, no way!  
No screens, no street, no meets, You're  
grounded!

I didn't do it, it wasn't me, it was him I say.  
Do they listen? They have a mission to ruin  
every day.

- Look at the first 2 lines. Can you feel the pattern of rhythm as it is spoken? The beat wants to move to the stressed (underlined) words.
  - Notice there are rhymes within lines (listen and mission), not just at the end.
  - Choose a word at the end of the first line that has lots of words to rhyme with it, say way day.
  - You can write as many verses as you need to complete your story.
- Try not to worry about line length or rhyming just have some fun!



### SHOW US YOUR WORK!

Send us a picture of your work on social media, find us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @westonmuseum  
Include the hashtag #westonmuseumrusty



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