

Feelin' Blue (Write Your Own Blues Lyrics)

By Danielle Bayert



Directions:

Read through the following blues lyric examples. Take note of patterns in the form of the words. Musicians call this the "lyrical form." You may notice that *the first line of words is repeated and the ending words rhyme.*

Example 1 (from "Mean Old Bedbug Blues" by Bessie Smith):

Gals, bed bugs sure is evil, they don't mean me no good.
Yeah, bed bugs sure is evil, they don't mean me no good.
Thinks he's a woodpecker and I'm a chunk of wood.

When I lay down at night, I wonder how can a poor gal sleep.
When I lay down at night, I wonder how can a poor gal sleep.
When some is holding my hand, others eating my feet.

Example 2 (from "Saint Louis Blues" by W.C. Handy):

I hate to see that evening sun go down.
I hate to see that evening sun go down.
Cause my baby, he's gone left this town.

Feelin' tomorrow like I feel today.
If I'm feelin' tomorrow like I feel today.
I'll pack my truck and make my get-a-way.

Example 3 (from "The Broadway Blues" by Carey Morgan):

Oh, there's no use talkin' folks, I'm feelin' blue.
Oh, there's no use talkin' folks, I'm feelin' blue.
All alone in New York town and loaded down with the mean old blues.

Oh, there's no use talkin' folks, the panic's on.
Oh, there's no use talkin' folks, the panic's on.
'Cause my gal's done left me, and my sugar's gone.

Writing Assignment Directions:

1. Pick a topic for your blues song. (Hint: Something that makes you feel sad, frustrated, or upset is usually a great blues subject. Examples: "The Bratty Brother Blues," or "The Online Learning Blues")
2. Write your blues lyrics on the sheet below.
3. Be sure to follow the lyrical form as shown.

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Song Title: _____

By: _____

First Verse

Line 1:

Repeat Line 1:

Line 2 (last word must rhyme with the last word in line 1):

Second Verse

Line 3:

Repeat Line 3:

Line 4 (last word must rhyme with the last word in line 3):