

ASSIGNMENTS

Bookwriters – Leading To The Song

If you are enrolled as a bookwriter, please do this assignment only.

If you are enrolled as a bookwriter/lyricist, you may choose, instead, to write a scene for two people that could lead to the singing of the lyricist assignment below.

If you are enrolled as a bookwriter/composer, please do both the bookwriter assignment and the composer assignment.

Write a scene for two people that ends with one person left alone to sing the following lyric. Use a maximum of 3 pages.

Intro Black cats creep across my path
 Until I'm almost mad
 I must have 'roused the devil's wrath
 Cause all my luck is bad

A-1 I make a date for golf
 And you can bet your life it rains
 I try to give a party and
 The guy upstairs complains
 I guess I'll go through life
 Just catchin' colds and missin' trains
 Ev'rything happens to me

A-2 I never miss a thing
 I've had the measles and the mumps
 And ev'ry time I play an ace
 My partner always trumps
 I guess I'm just a fool
 Who never looks before he jumps
 Ev'rything happens to me

B At first my heart thought you could break this jinx for me
 That love would turn the trick to end despair
 But now I just can't fool this head that thinks for me
 I've mortgaged all my castles in the air

A-3 I've telegraphed and phoned
 I sent an "Air-mail Special" too
 Your answer was "good-bye" and there
 Was even postage due
 I fell in love just once
 And then it had to be with you

Ev'rything happens to me.ⁱ

Composers – Motivic repetition

If you are enrolled as a composer, please do this assignment only.

If you are enrolled as a composer/lyricist, you may choose to create your own initial motive and develop it to work with the lyric assignment below. Please select an initial motive that has approximately 4 – 7 notes, not longer than that.

Use the 6 note motive below. Develop it into an 8-bar A section, using these exact notes as the first six notes of the A section. Write a contrasting B section. Complete a 32-bar A-A-B-A tune based on the motive. Notice that we have not given any harmonic information. You are free to harmonize the notes as you like. Also, the motive is written in the key of C. You may place your song in any key, as long as you maintain the intervallic relationships. The motive is do-mi-sol-mi-fa-diⁱⁱ in whatever key you choose. We have written the motive as a triplet which includes an 8th rest and a quarter note. Use this rhythm in the first bar of each A section. However, you are free to play with the rhythms as you develop the motive. Remember the motive can also be used in the accompaniment, especially in any open measures or parts of measures where the voice is at rest.



Lyricists – Prosody

If you are enrolled as a lyricist please do this assignment only.

If you are enrolled as a composer/lyricist, see the composer assignment above.

If you are enrolled as a bookwriter/lyricist, see the bookwriter assignment above

Here is a lyric for an A A B A song that doesn't scan properly. The corresponding lines in each A section may have the wrong number of syllables, and/or they may have stresses in different places in the line.

A1 It isn't a question
Of whether or not I'm in love
It's simply a matter

Of whether or not I'll survive it

A2 It's foolish to complain
And I hate to seem ungrateful
But I can't sleep at all
I'm so tired I'm only half alive

B Poor me, Poor me
What's a lover to do
Poor me, Poor me
Falling in love with you

A3 And now it's getting worse
My red eyes are seeing double
My hair is falling out
And what's left is turning gray.

Adjust the given lyric so that each line of the first A section scans exactly the same as the corresponding line in each of the other A sections. Refer to the example of *The Surrey With The Fringe On Top*. Look for opportunities to create repeating rhythmic structures within the A section so the composer can repeat musical ideas, either note for note or rhythmically with tonal variations.

Remember, to scan exactly, the lines must have the same number of syllables, and the accents or stresses must fall on the same syllables in each corresponding line.

Optional bonus exercise: Introduce a consistent rhyme scheme in the A sections.

ⁱ Lyrics of "Everything Happens To Me," music by Matt Dennis, lyrics by Tom Adair

ⁱⁱ Solfeggio: see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solfège>