



NEW WRITING
NORTH
YOUNG WRITERS



Lyric Remix

Warm Up:

Next line

Start with the line “It ain’t no use to sit and wonder why”. Write it at the top of your page and have a go at writing different versions of the next line. You could think about different directions you could take this in: the next line might show sadness, humour, anger or happiness. Have a go at conveying each one.

Get Inspired:

Watch the following TED Talk called ‘Creativity is a Remix’

It suggests that there are no new ideas, and that all creativity is to “copy, transform and combine”.

[‘Creativity is a Remix’](#)

You will also get to hear what the next line to ‘It ain’t no use to sit and wonder why’ is – it’s from a song called ‘*Don’t Think Twice, It’s Alright*’ by Bob Dylan.

Give it a Try:

Lyric Remix (copy, transform, combine)

Take a set of lyrics and rewrite them.

I will use ‘*Don’t Think Twice, It’s Alright*’ as an example. Below is Dylan’s original lyrics, and underneath in brackets I have had a go at rewriting/transforming them.

Well it ain’t no use to sit and wonder why, babe

(Don’t spend your time trying to work it out)

Ifin’ you don’t know by now

(If you don’t know, you never will)

An’ it ain’t no use to sit and wonder why, babe

(Don’t spend your time trying to work it out)

It’ll never do some how

(The answer is the same still)

When your rooster crows at the break o’ dawn

(When you wake up on your pillow)

Look out your window and I’ll be gone

(Turn your face, I’m not there)

You’re the reason I’m trav’lin’ on

(I had to go)

Don’t think twice, it’s all right

(But don’t think I didn’t care)

You can see that my lyrics are telling a similar story but they are different to Dylan's original lyrics. Try it yourself with a different song.

Challenge Yourself:

Try putting your new lyrics to an existing tune (this is for practice, remember you would need to alter the tune significantly to claim it as your own).

You could try Woody Guthrie's technique of "sing high when they sing low, sing fast when they sing slow" and see how much the tune changes.

You could take the remix idea further by rewriting the lyrics to two songs with similar themes, and combining the words.

Explore Further:

Beware! Here's an example of an artist who wrote songs that were too similar to their inspiration and paid the consequences:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/31/arts/music/katy-perry-christian-rap-copyright.html>

This workshop was devised by Jennie Brewis for New Writing North Young Writers.



Jennie Brewis is a musician, songwriter and cultural producer. She is a co-founding member of The Cornshed Sisters, whose two albums (released on Memphis Industries) fuse together pop, folk, protest, ballad and gospel into their own unique style. As well as gaining widespread radio-play for their singles, (including Elton John's Rocket Hour) The Cornshed Sisters have played live sessions on BBC 6 Music, Radio 4, BBC Television and on Glastonbury Festival's acoustic stage. As well as supporting Elbow they have toured the UK with The Futureheads and Slug and are currently recording their third album. Jennie has lectured in music at Newcastle College and currently works as a project producer for New Writing North and is a Pop Choir Project leader.

New Writing North Young Writers is a programme for young people aged 12-19. We run creative writing groups, masterclasses and programmes in schools across the North East. We support young people to express their ideas, to work with professional writers and artists, to create and share new work, and to meet other young writers.

We would love to read your writing! Share it with us on social media using #writingfromhome or by emailing youngwriters@newwritingnorth.com. Search for New Writing North Young Writers on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, where we will also be sharing regular writing prompts. Each week we will select a Young Writer of the Week whose work will be shared on our channels.

Find other writing workshops and much more on our website www.newwritingnorth.com

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