

Ready to Fly – Teacher’s Material – Contents Analysis

Song	Language	Listening	Text	Activities (a selection)
1 Ready to Fly (pop/youth anthem)	Exploring kinds of popular songs	Pre-listening: brain-storm answers. 'Wh' questions.	History of popular anthems.	Explore songs with a purpose Write own lyrics Anthems in own language Leaving home Find more lyrics
2 My Mama Said (rap style)	Rhyme schemes Explore non-standard English of popular songs	Pre-listening: predicting content	Comparison of some US and British school rules	More on school rules Songs about school Cross-generational music tastes Explore the teacher’s point of view Explore the history of Rap
3 Carrigfergus (Irish lament)	Conditional sentences Verb + (noun) + preposition or adverb combinations	Pre-listening: predict content Reactions and Song Review	History of the song The singer talking about the song	Places you like/love Songs that evoke strong emotions Similar songs in your own language Irish musicians Irish cities, artists, poets, history, etc
4 Fast Track (protest – strong content on persecution and immigration policy)	Adjectives describing emotions Language of intention and purpose	Pre-listening: predicting Recounting reactions	None	Exploring the protest song genre Personal reactions Forms of protest and resistance Related films and stories

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5 Before I Go (A sad love song)	The language of love songs Use of metaphor and simile Tenses used in the song	Pre-listening: predicting Listen and fill in missing words Summarise the story	The language of love songs Questions plus a visualisation exercise	Love songs in own language Creating a love song cycle Dialogue using song lyrics Compare love songs and poems
6 Iko iko (A New Orleans Mardi Gras song of the Black Indian tribes)	Learn about Cajun Simple past and past continuous tenses	Listen and guess meanings	The Mardi Gras Indians True/False questions	Other Mardi Gras songs and artists Varieties of English Research black cowboys Research native Americans
7-8 The House of the Rising Sun (2 versions: one traditional, one rock)	Explore non-standard English in songs Identify tenses (contracted) Conditional sentences (Type 3)	Compare song versions True/False questions Listen and express personal preferences	A History of the Song Create your own comprehension questions	Create own version of the song Find similar song in own language Films about traditional music Find out about music in New Orleans
9 Velvet Revolution (political content – civil disobedience)	Simple Present and Present Continuous tense comparisons	Listen and guess Answer 'wh' questions	None	Explore history referred to in song Films on same theme Research other walls that divide Research similar events, own country
10 Holding On (child-parent relationships)	Punctuation (especially contracted forms)	Listen and answer multiple choice questions Write a summary	None	Other songs on same theme Songs in own language Cross-cultural comparisons Advice columns
11 Ka-ka Yikki (traditional US blues)		Pre-listening: guess/predict content	History of the American West in 19th century. Create own comprehension task.	Research famous names in the West Find out about early US history More traditional American songs Critique Hollywood westerns

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12 Waltzing Matilda (traditional Australian song)	Australian-English vocabulary Change past to simple tense	Listening and multiple choice comprehension Write the story	The history and background of Waltzing Matilda	Find lyrics to Australian anthem Other Australian songs Find out about Australian English Research native Australians Find out about Australian musicians
13 The nonsense the animals and me (a playful song about animals)	Animals vocabulary Simple Past and Present Perfect tenses	Pre-listening: predict words Listen and fill in Songwriter describes the creative process	None	Create own version of song Research amazing animals Find other similar songs Animals and the economy Create own learning materials
14 Raggle Taggle Gypsies (traditional Scottish song)	Simple Past – question forms Explore examples of non- standard English Verb + preposition/adverbial combinations	Listen and summarise then retell story in writing Song lyric analysis – content and theme	History of the song and the myth behind it Compare the song and an ancient Greek myth	Consider ethnic minorities Find other versions Find out about gypsy history and culture Scottish songs, history and culture
15 Lifelong Friend (a lyrical song about friend- ship)	Correct misprints in lyrics More about the language of songs	Listen and correct misprints	None	On being a good friend – create a questionnaire Explore music and mood Find similar songs
16 The Travel Song (Reggae)	Revise the plurals of nouns	Pre-listening: prediction and association - create own listening exercise	None	Create your own travel plan Choose a research subject: a country's music traditions, dress; dance; food; geo- graphy; arts and crafts; buildings and architecture; varieties of English.