



Learning Guide
for Kids and Parents

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MS. HINGEE'S GRADE SIX MUSIC ASSIGNMENT

Hello, Grade 6S! Your homework assignment for this week is to write about a song that is important to your family*. I also want a short sentence about the performer, and what makes the song important to you.**

*CLASSROOM FRIENDLY SONGS, THANK YOU, MARIO.
**I'm going to put this list in a folder when you're done and I want to remind you that while all of these songs are basically A-OK for kids, some of these bands will have other tracks that are not, so check with your grown-up before doing further research! So, Tom, you cannot sue me for inadvertently hearing a song with swear words in it.

TAYLOR

Song: "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel | **Genre:** Classical orchestral
Tell us about your artist! Ravel was a French composer born in 1875 who died in 1937.

Why are they so important to your family? When my mum gets angry about her life, she puts this on and sits alone in a dark room until she feels better. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra version is the best.

NOAH

Song: “Rise Above” by Black Flag | **Genre:** Punk

Tell us about your artist! The band Black Flag started in 1976 in California.

Why are they so important to your family? Mum and Dad met when they were at the beach and they both had Black Flag tattoos on their ankles. Dad says that when they had me Mum played this in the car on the way home from the hospital so that I knew what I was born into. I’m not allowed to listen to all of their stuff but if any of us is mad about how the world is going we listen to “Rise Above” and we get all hyped up to change the world.

NG

Song: “Respect” by Aretha Franklin | **Genre:** Soul

Tell us about your artist! Aretha Franklin was an African-American gospel singer born in 1942.

Why are they so important to your family? If my Dad ever looks sad, my little sister loudly starts yelling this song and he always smiles. If I join in, though, he laughs. Which maybe means I’m not very good??

RISSA

Song: “Bad Liar” by Selena Gomez | **Genre:** Pop

Tell us about your artist! Selena Gomez was born on July 22, 1992 in Texas and started out as an actress when she was just 10 years old.

Why are they so important to your family? She released her first album when she was 17. Before Mum died, she thought if I started acting before I was 10 (like Selena did), maybe I could release an album before her too. I don’t really like singing anymore, but I like Selena. “Bad Liar,” has a sample from a Talking Heads song,

and my dad loves them so that’s probably why he lets me play it so much.

HENRY

Song: “Kill This Love” by BLACKPINK | **Genre:** K-pop

Tell us about your artist! BLACKPINK are a South Korean K-pop band that formed in 2016 made up of four women: Jisoo, Jennie, Rosé (who grew up in Australia!) and Lisa.

Why are they so important to your family? We play *Just Dance* every night and “Kill This Love” is our favorite track. My sister Sandy has even started learning Korean so she can understand what they’re talking about. Also, my dad always wins. We think he practices in secret.

MURPHY

Song: “Alaska” by Maggie Rogers | **Genre:** Folk pop

Tell us about your artist! Maggie Rogers is an American songwriter (and singer) born in 1994 who started playing the harp when she was seven, then took up piano and guitar and started writing her own songs when she was in year eight.

Why are they so important to your family? It was hard to choose something for this because me and my dad listen to so much music, but we like the story of how she was discovered when Pharrell Williams, who wrote “Happy,” went to her university and heard her song. “Alaska” is really beautiful and has great lyrics too. I really like the word “glacial.” It should be in more songs.

MARIO

Song: “Gurrumul History (I Was Born Blind)” by Dr. G Yunupingu (before he died he was known as Geoffrey Gurrumul

Yunupingu so you might've heard of him under that name instead.) | **Genre:** Folk

Tell us about your artist! Yunupingu is an Indigenous Australian musician born in 1971 who was four years old when he learned to play an instrument, starting out with a toy piano and an accordion, which he taught himself!

Why are they so important to your family? My nonna had taped one of his songs off the radio and used to play it all the time. One day I heard the song when I was at a music shop and bought the CD for her, and she was so happy that she cried. We played one of his songs at her funeral and so now they make me feel sad, in a good kind of way.

DARCY

Song: "Jolene" or "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton | **Genre:** Country

Tell us about your artist! 1. Dolly Parton grew up really poor and was one of 12 kids. 2. She was born in America in 1946. 3. She has her own theme park in Tennessee, with rides, called Dollywood. 4. She started a foundation to send books to kids around the world each month until they turn five and sends about one and a half million books each month.

Why are they so important to your family? 1. My mum used to be a Dolly Parton impersonator and can sing all her songs really well. 2. She has all of the wigs still so we can dress up and sing along with her since we know all the words.

AVA

Song: "O Superman" by Laurie Anderson | **Genre:** "experimental"

Tell us about your artist! I think if you listen to her music then she tells you herself.

Why are they so important to your family? It was a cold, long day in the middle of summer, and I was shopping with my mother for a dress in a secondhand store that smelled like moths and was very crowded, like people would have climbed over you to get a shirt. While my mother tried on a dress that made her look shiny like a toaster, this song played over the speakers and she said, "This sounds like your brain." She didn't buy the dress.

ZARA

Song: "War" by Edwin Starr | **Genre:** Funk

Tell us about your artist! Edwin Starr was born in Tennessee on January 21, 1942.

Why are they so important to your family? Mum had this playlist she'd play on the way to protests, and I really liked this one song on it, so Mum started singing it to me as a lullaby when I went to sleep at night. She says "WAR!" was my first word, but Dad says my first word was "Dad."

MARCIE

Song: "Sweets for my Sweet" by The Searchers | **Genre:** Rock and roll

Tell us about your artist! The Searchers are an English band who played in the 60s and their genre was called Merseybeat but I don't know what that means.

Why are they so important to your family? My mum came from England when she was really little, and her parents used to listen to The Searchers all the time when she was growing up. Mum likes to play them when she misses England, like if we've watched an episode of *Doctor Who* or there's a news story about a new royal baby being born. I pretend to really like the song "Sweets for my

Sweet” because on the album my mum has it’s right before the song “Love Potion No. 9,” which is my favorite song because it’s the only song we own that’s about magic since my mum hates magic.

PILAR

Song: “Remember Me” from the movie *Coco* | **Genre:** Various (During the movie it’s played as a mariachi song, a lullaby, a pop song, and a folk song.)

Tell us about your artist! The song was written by Robert Lopez with lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez.

Why are they so important to your family? When I saw *Coco* at the movies it was like the movie writers had visited my family in Mexico! My mum says they definitely based the grandma on her own grandma, the food felt the same, and it all just made me feel really good and Mamá wouldn’t stop holding my hand the whole time we watched it. Don’t listen to the lullaby version if you’re sad.

OLIVIA R.

Song: “C’mon Aussie C’mon” (2020 version) by Cricket Australia | **Genre:** Jingle

Tell us about your artist! The song was first written in 1978 by Allan Johnston and Alan Morris.

Why are they so important to your family? It was first written for the World Series Cricket, and it talked about the players back then and how great they were, and then it was rewritten in 2019 and talked about how great the people on the Australian women’s national cricket team are, and cricket is the best and women’s cricket is better than the best and my sister is going to be on the national team one day.

HAYLEY

Song: “It’s Oh So Quiet” by Björk | **Genre:** Art pop

Tell us about your artist! Björk was born in Reykjavík, Iceland, in 1965, and started her career in music at age eleven which, just saying, is how old I was when I started my career in film.

Why are they so important to your family? If my family doesn’t have enough time to watch an entire movie or TV show but just need to watch something short (like if we’re about to go out but are just waiting for my little sister to brush her teeth instead of putting toothpaste in everyone’s shoes) then we watch a Björk video, because the music is great and the visuals are greater. The best ones to watch are “It’s Oh So Quiet” which is fun and “Bachelorette” which is super weird!

TOM

Song: “I Fought the Law” by The Clash | **Genre:** Punk rock

Tell us about your artist! The Clash started in 1976 in London.

Why are they so important to your family? My father, who is a lawyer, likes this song because the law wins and it’s bad that so many songs are about people breaking the law. He sings this whenever he wins a case, like when he put [REDACTED] in jail for [REDACTED] years. [Teacher’s note: you probably shouldn’t mention this.] Previously this song was recorded by the Bobby Fuller Four, but was written by Sonny Curtis. Please make sure that is noted. [TN: noted.]

HOMER

Song: “I Will Survive” by Gloria Gaynor | **Genre:** Disco

Tell us about your artist! Gloria was born in 1973 and grew up in New Jersey.

Why are they so important to your family? When my mum and dad broke up, my mum used to play this when she was feeling really angry at what was going on and worried about money and things. Whenever she played this song she'd feel better and get really energetic and it was like she had a disco ball inside her.

AVERY

Song: "Summertime Clothes" by Animal Collective | **Genre:** Electronic

Tell us about your artist! Animal Collective is an American band that started in 2003 made up of four musicians – Avey Tare, Panda Bear, Deakin and Geologist – but not all four of them are always in the band at the same time.

Why are they so important to your family? My aunt bought me the CD of their album *Merriweather Post Pavilion* when she heard I liked electronica, and there's this song called "My Girls" on it, which is about this person who doesn't want any more in life than building a house for their "girls," which probably means like a wife and a daughter but actually my dad just sings it all the time to his chickens so they lay eggs. The song "Summertime Clothes" makes me feel like it's summer, since there's all this ocean sound at the start and they talk about sweat and running around outside and I want to make a song that makes people feel like they're sweating.

K.

Song: "jungle" by tash sultana | **Genre:** reggae/rock/lo-fi

Tell us about your artist! tash sultana was born in Melbourne in 1995 and had a rough time in life // they were performing on the streets to make money and then a song they put online got heaps of hits and they got popular // they can play twenty instruments

Why are they so important to your family? my family really love it when people kind of just do their own thing // like when they make community gardens or release music online // we like to listen to tash when we're driving to the beach because it makes everything feel like it's bright // also my sister is a street performer too

JHYLL

Song: "Rose Rouge" by St Germain | **Genre:** Jazz

Tell us about your artist! St Germain is the name of a French place called St Germain-en-Laye which is where Ludovic Navarre, who's the guy who is the band, was born in 1969.

Why are they so important to your family? Me and Mum and my Aunt Dea stayed in a hotel overnight once in Adelaide for a skating competition and on the last night I won a trophy for free skating and we sat in our room looking over the skyline and Dea put this on and started dancing and then said we should probably go out and we went out really late and had ramen in this bar and looked out at the city lights and it was literally the best night.

WILLOW

Song: "Super Star" by S.H.E. | **Genre:** Mandopop

Tell us about your artist! S.H.E. are a girl group from Taiwan. The band members, Selina Jen, Hebe Tien and Ella Chen, came together after entering a contest to join a music label.

Why are they so important to your family? So whenever my mum's sister comes to visit we all go out for karaoke and this is the song we all sing. My dad pretends to hate it but one time I started up a tally on the fridge whiteboard for all the times I've caught him humming it and it got to 26 before he even asked what I was scoring.

OLIVIA J.

Song: “Come Into My World” by Kylie Minogue | **Genre:** Dance

Tell us about your artist! Kylie is Australia’s highest selling female artist and was born in Melbourne in 1968 and is an icon.

Why are they so important to your family? When we moved to Australia we didn’t speak to a lot of people at first. We lived next door to these two men and their dog who would play the same female singer all the time. One day we went over and knocked on their door and asked them what they were playing, and they told us it was Kylie Minogue. After that my dad became friends with them and now whenever they play Kylie my dad opens the window and shouts out, “Turn it up!” This song has a really good music video so it’s my favorite.

THI

Song: “I’ve Just Seen a Face” by The Beatles | **Genre:** Rock

Tell us about your artist! The Beatles started in Liverpool in 1960 and are the most influential band of all time, the best-selling musical act of all time, and when you hear them you go, “Wait, was that a Beatles song too?!”

Why are they so important to your family? My dad will get out his guitar and play a Beatles song if anyone stops talking for more than five seconds. His dad fought in the Vietnam War and he used to sing Beatles songs to himself to help him sleep at night when things were bad, and then he’d sing them to my dad too when he was little, and then Dad sang them to me, too. “I’ve Just Seen a Face” is the one my dad plays the best.