

## Jason Lockett “Roots and Rambles - Art of Songwriting Workshop”

Songs give voice to our emotions in ways that can't be done in other forms. We'll examine ways to promote a visceral response to our music using object based language, tricks of rhyme and sound to make our ideas and stories come alive.

Let's look at where rhymes occur and don't. Let's look at dual meanings of words, homophones, etc. Let's look at the objects mentioned in the songs and how these objective items can take on subjective, emotional meanings.

Spotify Playlist: <http://bit.ly/luckettssongworkshop>  
Apple Music Playlist: <http://bit.ly/luckettssongwork>  
Common on Song Exploder: <https://songexploder.net/common>  
Sodajerker on Songwriting: <https://www.sodajerker.com/podcast/>

Recommended Book: Songwriters on Songwriting by Paul Zollo

### Our Prompts:

I. Physical Object

II. Subject

III. Emotion

You can have more than one of any. But pick one primary and any additional elements should relate to the primary element. Below are suggestions, but feel free to improvise.

Bookshelf  
Pen  
Table  
Chair  
Guitar  
Car  
Dress  
Hat  
Magazine  
Book  
Trumpet  
Floor  
Mirror  
Basketball  
Eggs

Holiday  
Family  
Dinner  
Unity  
Discord  
Spirituality  
School  
Work  
Exercise  
Errands  
Roadtrips  
Summer  
Art  
Parenthood  
Childhood

Happiness  
Sadness  
Pensiveness  
Elation  
Peace  
Despair  
Hope  
Relief  
Perplexed  
Anger  
Grief  
Rejuvenation  
Bliss  
Joy  
Gratitude

## A Riot in My Mind

Wa-da-da, wa-da-da-da-da  
Cassius Clay and The Potter  
Shape my mind, the shape of things, the trap, the grind  
Escape the dream, shooting star, my aim supreme  
Pops said, "If you gon' aim for king, claim the king  
My brainstorm reign supreme  
Black superhero with a cape and wings  
Still I'm a G like a Mason ring  
Build with gods and gangstas whose scars and faces  
Traces of racist snakes that debased us  
Tried to freebase us, mark of the beast, erase us  
But we raised up from East Asia  
Children of Mother Nature  
The minority report said that we major and we made ya  
I seek greater 'til the fire next time  
It's burning down, there's a riot in my mind

It's a war outside  
When it's quiet, it's a riot in my mind  
It's a war outside  
Won't be quiet, it's a riot in my mind  
Gotta get ready, saddle up  
If you really 'bout it, we gon' see, oh yeah  
Gotta get ready, time is up  
If you been 'bout it, we gon' see, oh yeah  
It's a war outside  
Can't be quiet, it's a riot in my mind

Paraphernalia I wear like songs by Mahalia  
Soldier, Buffalo, Griselda  
Held the scroll that told us seven bowls and seven plagues  
Babylon, dread the days when the dead are raised  
Escapades of the everlasting  
Where the ghetto praise for compassion, no longer masking  
Where Black men and Black women have been  
Art, culture, fashion, the science and mad bling  
Kemetic attraction, we live for action  
Moral arc backbend, our spirits attacking  
To the, to the, tick-tick-tick top  
You can lick shots, strange fruit get cropped  
Get land, get stores, kick doors, ensure  
Your fam' is good, plus the people next door  
Some are tired about the times, some inspired about the times  
It's where power is refined, it's a riot in my mind (Repeat Chorus)

Nation against nation  
Simulation, indication (It's a war)  
Uh, yo (It's a war)  
Nation against nation  
Simulation, innovation (It's a war, ow!)  
Generation, vindication  
Vindication, vindication, ahh!

By Common (Lonnie Rashid Lynn), Karriem Riggins, Isaiah Sharkey, PJ (Paris A. Jones)

## Hallelujah

I heard there was a secret chord  
That David played and it pleased the Lord  
But you don't really care for music, do you?  
Well it goes like this the fourth, the fifth  
The minor fall and the major lift  
The baffled king composing Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

...

Well your faith was strong but you needed proof  
You saw her bathing on the roof  
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew you  
She tied you to her kitchen chair  
She broke your throne and she cut your hair  
And from your lips, she drew the Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

...

Baby, I've been here before  
I've seen this room and I've walked this floor  
You know, I used to live alone before I knew you  
And I've seen your flag on the marble arch  
And Love is not a victory march  
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

...

Well, there was a time when you let me know  
What's really going on below  
But now you never show that to me, do you?  
But remember, when I moved in you  
And the holy dove was moving too  
And every breath, we drew was Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

...

Maybe there's a God above  
But, all I've ever learned from love  
Was how to shoot somebody who outdrew you?  
And it's not a cry, that you hear at night  
It's not somebody, who's seen the light  
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

By Leonard Cohen, arr. Jeff Buckley/John Cale

## Imagine

Imagine there's no heaven  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us, only sky

Imagine all the people  
Livin' for today

Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion, too

Imagine all the people  
Livin' life in peace

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions  
I wonder if you can  
No need for greed or hunger  
A brotherhood of man

Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will live as one

By John Lennon

## Writing

Is there anything left  
Maybe steak and eggs  
Waking up to washing up  
Making up your bed

Lazy days, my razor blade  
Could use a better edge

It's enough to make you laugh  
Relax in a nice cool bath  
Inspiration for navigation  
Of our new found craft

Oh, I know you and you know me  
It's always half and half

And we were oh oh, so you know  
Not the kind to dawdle  
Will the things we wrote today  
Sound as good tomorrow

We will still be writing  
In approaching years  
Stifling yawns on Sundays  
As the weekends disappear

We could stretch our legs if we'd half a mind  
But don't disturb us if you hear us trying  
To instigate the structure of another line or two  
Cause writing's lighting up  
And I like life enough  
To see it through

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By Elton John & Bernie Taupin

## **(Please Don't Play) Hallelujah**

"Please don't play Hallelujah!"  
I said, "You've no problem here."  
Every child desires a poet to name what's inside.  
But you and I, we want to be the writer.

Ah, let it go.  
The beauty's not in wanting, but in doing.  
And you'll find yourself when you get there.

Please don't take the long way  
Shave your head and cut your nails  
Cast everything aside (that's) in the way of your real life  
Excuses don't make the best lyrics

Ah, let it go.  
The beauty's not in wanting, but in doing.  
And you'll find yourself when you get there.

You can break it all down to a waltz  
Controlled by the minor things that you felt were dominant  
Clever in your avoidance of the grind  
The work and the fearlessness that you need to arrive  
At the point where you can be who you want to be  
I am trying to...

Write my own Hallelujah  
And whether or not this hits the mark  
I'll set the table once again  
For inspiration to befriend  
This workman's muse  
I'm inviting

Ah, let it go.  
The beauty's not in wanting, but in doing.  
And you'll find yourself when you get there.

By Jason Lockett

## Reimagine

Reimagine where you stand  
Reimagine your next plan  
Reimagine all you've learned  
Reimagine your concerns

(CHORUS)

Reimagine and begin  
Reimagine now is when  
We were only dreamers while our heroes sang  
So let's make a change  
And let's find a new way

Reimagine where you're strong  
Reimagine right and wrong  
Reimagine what is just  
Reimagine who you trust

(BACK TO CHORUS)

(BRIDGE)

Love...  
I know that you dream about it  
Love...  
No one can live without it  
When it was new you knew  
Everything changed

By Jason Lockett