

SUPER HEROES

COMPOSING PROJECT

PUPIL WORKSHEETS

We are going to compose a musical theme that represents a super hero.

Firstly we will look at some examples and ask ourselves what makes them successful.

The musical ingredients available to any composer are the same. They are called the **ELEMENTS** of music. The elements of music are as follows.

DURATION	How long does the sound last?
DYNAMICS	How loud or how soft is the sound?
PITCH	How high or how low is the sound?
SILENCE	An empty space between sounds
TEMPO	How fast or how slow is the music?
TEXTURE	How many different sounds can you hear playing together?
TIMBRE	What does the sound feel like?

TASK 1 Design an **ELEMENTS OF MUSIC** poster.

Listen to this musical theme. It is from a film called **JAWS** and was written by a very famous film music composer called **John Williams**.



Which **ELEMENTS** of music has John Williams used to show us

The Speed of the shark _____ The Size of the shark _____

Choose the timbre of the instrument playing the opening theme

WOODWIND BRASS STRINGS PERCUSSION

How many different pitches are used for the opening theme? _____

As you will hear in the Jaws theme, the music need not be complicated to be effective. You need to find the characteristic points. In the Jaws theme we can easily identify the speed, size and danger of the shark through the elements used.

TASK 2

Choose one of the following and write down which musical elements you would use to indicate its characteristics. Give reasons for your choices.

A ferocious lion

A deadly snake

A charging Rhino

TASK 3

Listen to the following theme tunes and in groups list the musical elements you hear. Compare your answers with the rest of your group.

SUPERMAN _____

JAMES BOND _____

HARRY POTTER _____

ROCKY _____

Dr. WHO _____

You are now ready to compose your own SUPERHEROES theme

PUPIL COMPOSING SHEET

Pupil's Name _____

My SUPER HERO _____

TASK 4

Make a list of your superhero's qualities e.g. can fly, super strength, etc.

Next to each quality, indicate the musical element you intend using.

QUALITY

MUSICAL ELEMENT

Composing a melodic theme – keep the theme simple.

Here are some examples. You may want to try them out on a keyboard or other melodic instrument. Fill in the missing superhero's name.

play as low as you can and slowly

The first example shows a melodic line on a treble clef staff with notes E, F, E, F. The second example shows a series of chords on a treble clef staff with notes G, G#, A, G#, G, G#, A, G# and chord symbols Eb/C, Eb/C, Eb/C, Eb/C, Eb/C, Eb/C, Eb/C, Eb/C. The third example shows a melodic line on a treble clef staff with notes G, G, C, G, G, C, G, C, G, G, E, D, D and triplets over the first three and last three notes.

Using MANUSCRIPT paper (music paper) to write your notes, or plain paper to write a graphic score, compose a simple theme tune for your superhero. Try out your tune on a keyboard or other melodic instrument.

When composing a melody remember –

Most good tunes move in small steps (notes next to each other) and repeated notes (the same note played several times).

To make your melody more interesting you can change the duration of some of your notes.

Notated example



Graphic Score example



When you have a melody you are happy with, try going back to your elements of music list and consider playing your melody in different ways.

Finally you may want to add a simple accompaniment to your tune. This could be as simple as a repeated rhythm on a drum or a repeated chord on a keyboard.