

# Songwriting for Kids

## LA International Ukulele Festival

with Annie Loch



## My Songwriting Workbook

Before we write, let's map out our musical tools!

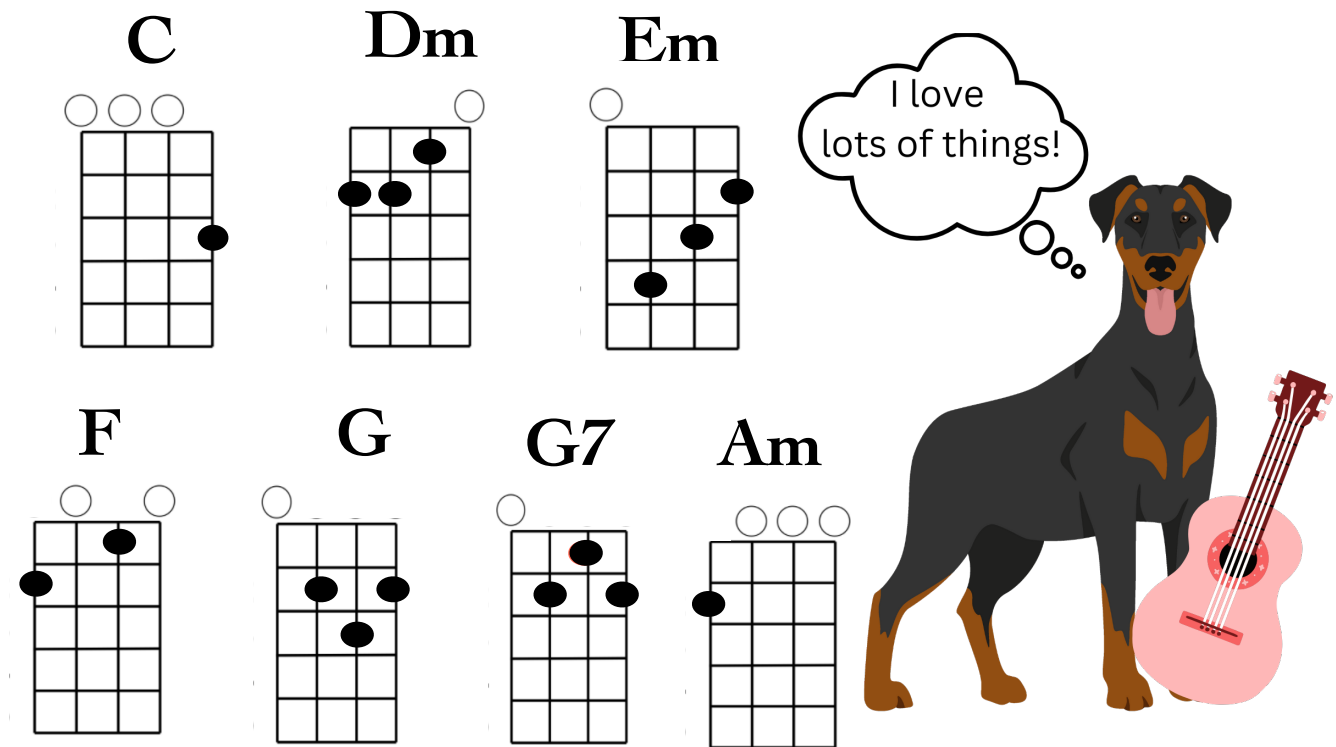
1. Pick your chord progression. Choose 3- 4 chords you want to use in your song then fill in the chord charts below!

| ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

2. Pick your strumming pattern. Practice clapping your rhythm before trying it on your strings (here are three popular options):

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D |   | D |   | D |   | D |   |
| ↓ |   | ↓ |   | ↓ |   | ↓ |   |
| D | U | D | U | D | U | D | U |
| ↓ | ↑ | ↓ | ↑ | ↓ | ↑ | ↓ | ↑ |
| D |   | D | U | U |   | D | U |
| ↓ |   | ↓ | ↑ | ↑ |   | ↓ | ↑ |

# Chords in the Key of C Reference



Every great song starts with an awesome idea. Pick one of the themes below or fill in the blank with your own!

**Imagination:** Space travel, talking animals, dragons who hate pie OR

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**My Favorite Things:** Pizza, video games, Saturdays, your pet OR

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**Big Feelings:** Being super excited, grumpy, feeling brave OR

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# Building Your Lyrics

Write down 4 action words and 4 describing words about your topic:

**Action Words (Verbs):**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Describing Words (Adjectives)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

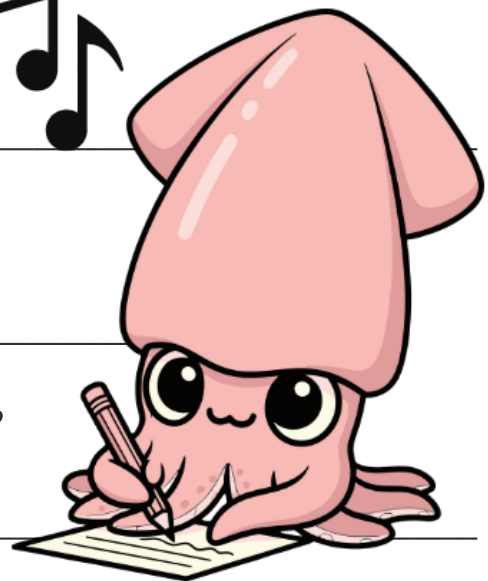
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Who or what** is your song about?

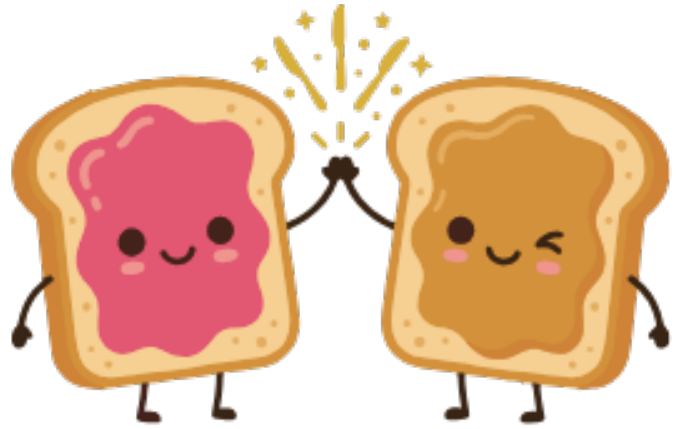


**Where** are they?

**What** is the problem or what is happening?



# Your Song Sandwich



Songs are built like sandwiches.

**The Verse** is the bread (*tells the story*)

**The Chorus** is the yummy middle (*the main point that repeats & everyone sings to*)

We are going to work on our chorus (the catchy part!) Think about the main topic of your song.

Line 1:

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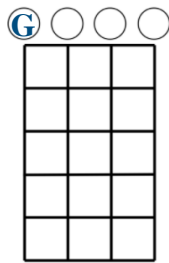
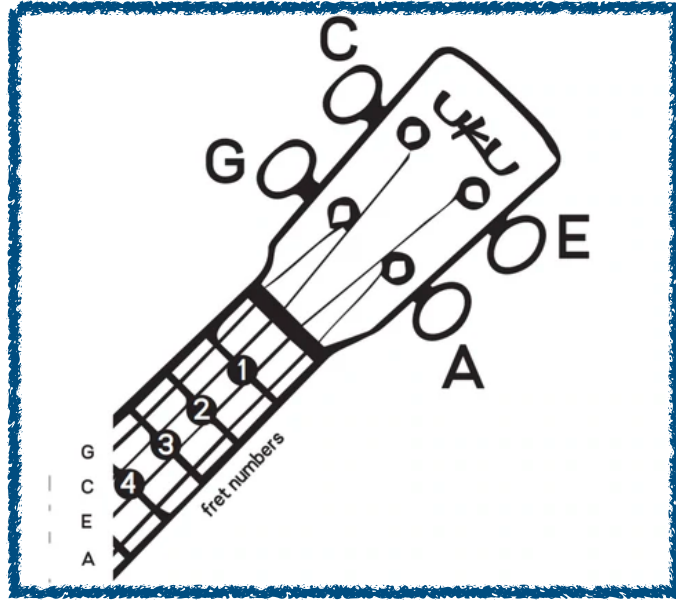
Line 2:

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Line 3 (maybe repeat Line 1!):

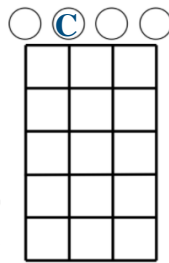
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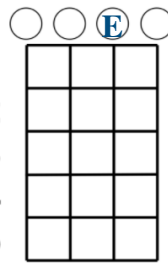
G

Great  
Gorilla  
Grab  
Give  
Gross  
Giant



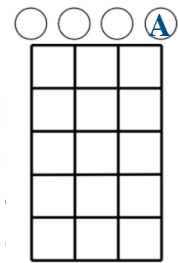
C

Cozy  
Chicken  
Combs  
Cucumber  
Cranky  
Count



E

Every  
Early  
Enjoy  
Eye  
Elect  
Elephant



A

Add  
Ankles  
Awake  
Also  
And  
Are



# The Ocean

By Bridget Ganz

## [Introduction]

D - C - B - A - C chord strum

## [Verse 1]

C                      Em                      F  
(strum) I love the way the sea turtles float!  
C                      Em                      F  
(strum) The way the waves crash on the rocks!  
C                      Em                      F  
(strum) I love the birds that catch the fish!

## [Chorus]

C   Em              F  
I, I love the ocean  
C   Em              F  
I, I love the ocean

## [Verse 2]

C                      Em              F  
(strum) I love the wabagong sharks  
C                      Em                      F  
(strum) The way the ocean glimmers in the sun!  
C                      Em      F  
(strum) I love the placid waves.

## [Chorus]

## [Bridge]

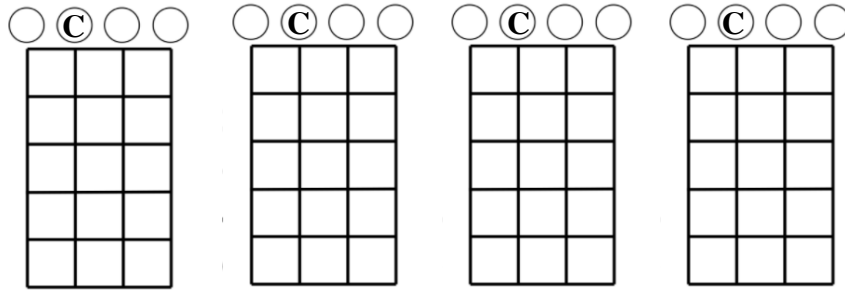
C                                      Em  
The land is so warm, but the ocean is so pretty.  
F                                      C  
Meet me at the beach, with a cute little kitty cause

## [Chorus]

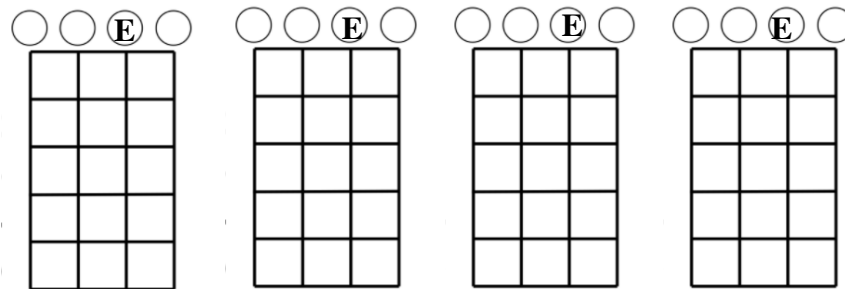
[Outro] D - C - B - A - C chord strum!

## Fingerstyle

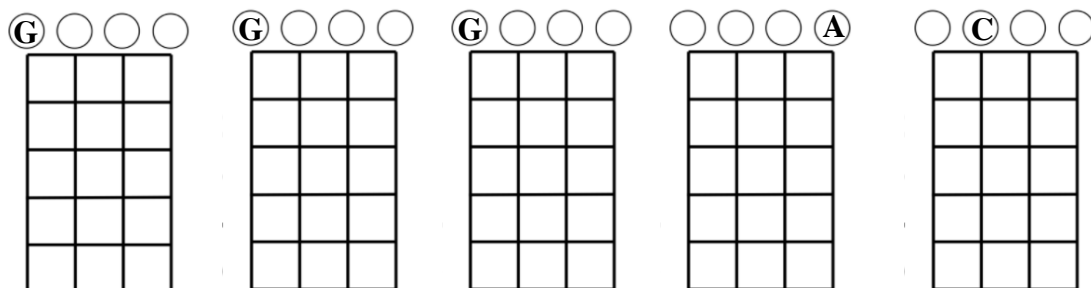
Fingerstyle is a method of ukulele playing where we pick each note in a song instead of strumming full chords.



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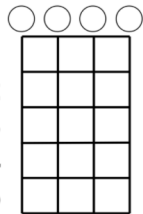
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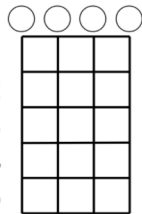
\_\_\_\_\_

For, *Uke Time*,  
write your  
own lyrics on  
the lines  
below each  
note!

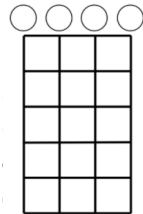
Go back to the *Good Cats Eat Acorns* game. Play around with the four notes we have learned (G/C/E/A) and find patterns that sounds good to you. *Write down the notes on the string charts and lyrics on the lines!* Be creative and have fun!



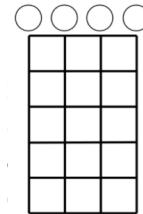

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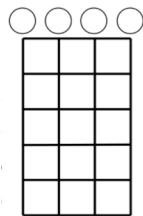

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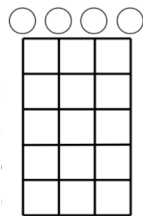

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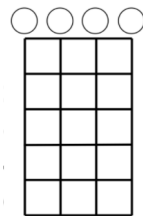

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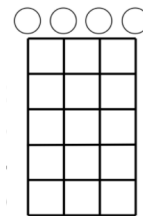

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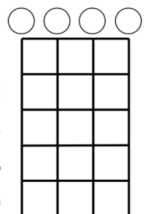

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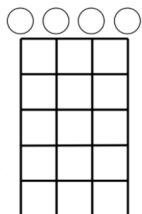

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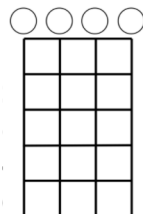

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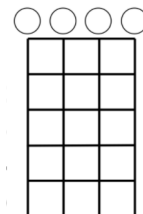

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