

## **Totty Studio Showcase 2026: Student Paragraphs**

Ivy Turnquist:

The song says the word is from the musical called the Mad Ones. This song is a turning point in the show where the character Sam works through her feelings and attempts to overcome her introverted nature and silence that shows up in her relationships specifically with her boyfriend. It also captures the idea that we need to let go and just let life happen rather than trying to plan. It reminds us that life is a beautiful thing and we just need to live it.

Jackson Duncan:

In my character's internal world he is just trying to let someone he cares about know that he is serious about her but doesn't want to tie them down, he knows that being with the right person is an important choice and wants to make sure it's right for the both of them. I am singing to the person I care most about and I don't want to hurt them. I am singing to them in an open safe setting like an apartment or a kitchen but it would also be a montage of the days that go by showing and trying to convince them to run away with me and that it will be good for the both of us that and I truly care.

Hudson Couch:

Singing *Edelweiss* from *The Sound of Music*, sung by Captain Georg von Trapp, is experiencing a quiet but powerful sense of fear and heartbreak as he faces the loss of his homeland to the rising threat of Nazi Germany annexation of Austria. Internally, he is torn between staying strong for his family and grieving the Austria he loves, using the song as a way to hold onto hope and identity. He is singing both to his children and to the people of Austria. The performance takes place at a music festival in Salzburg, but emotionally, it feels much more intimate, like a farewell. Through this song, he expresses love, pride, and quiet resistance, turning a simple folk tune into a deeply personal goodbye.

Elise Parmer:

In Fiona's internal world, she is attempting to stay happy and positive with the coming day. She is excited for her future and hopeful that it will be good, while trying to ignore anything that could possibly go wrong. Fiona is singing to the birds and the animals in the forest and sharing her happiness with them!!

James Palmer:

This song is about a hopeless romantic searching for the love of his life and dreaming of what his life will be like once he meets "the one" and his hopes and wishes for that relationship.

Elliot Hunter:

In the song, my character is living in a town where many unfortunate killings happen, but this song brings a softness to the story as he is singing to his mom and telling her that he is going to protect her and will always be there for her.

Kameron Grant:

“Wondering” is about questioning who you are and whether you’re on the right path. It really connects to me because, like my peers, I’m just a teenager so I don’t always have everything figured out, and sometimes I feel stuck between who I am now and who I want to be. The song captures the feeling of doubt, but also hope and the idea that maybe it’s okay not to have all the answers yet. I think a lot of us can relate to that, especially right now, because we’re all trying to figure out our place, our future, and what really makes us happy. This song is kind of a reminder that it’s okay to be unsure, and that wondering is just part of growing up.

Ella Okereke:

In my character’s internal world, she is dealing with someone close to her leaving out of the blue. As she is singing, she is trying to piece together when she and her partner fell out of line with each other. As the song progresses, she realizes her partner’s impact on her and her identity despite what has happened. She is finally able to express her emotion after being silenced for so long. I am singing to the partner/ someone close to me, straight through the eyes of the person with unwavering eye contact, sort of like having a serious conversation.

Kennedy Purvis:

My song that I will be singing is Lost In The Brass from Band Geeks. It is about a girl who plays the flute and she doesn’t get heard in the band because she gets lost in the brass.

Mia Rettig:

I relate to the lyrics of “Nothing Stops Another Day” because, as a senior in high school, I am about to go through a huge transition into college. It’s hard for me to not focus on the sad parts of leaving, like being away from my friends and family, especially since I am someone who doesn’t handle change well. But this song reminds me that instead of dwelling on what I’m losing, I should be excited about what’s ahead. To me, it’s about accepting that life moves forward, even when things feel uncertain.

Ella Sproul:

I was inspired to sing the song Voilà because I am currently in my third year of French, and I was able to experience the beauty of France this summer. Learning the language has helped me connect more deeply to the meaning of this song. Voilà, which means "here I am," tells the story of sharing your true self, and finding the courage to be seen. I connect with this message because performing also takes confidence and honesty. Through this song, I hope to share my appreciation of French culture and the importance of being yourself.

Reese Keen:

Hello, my name is Reese Keene and today I will be singing a song entitled The Secret of Happiness from the musical Daddy Long Legs. This song focuses on the message that we should live in the moment and not focus on the past nor fear the future. This

song also represents overcoming fear and how we can find peace in simplicity. During this song I can see myself in a very calm setting where everything is quiet and peaceful. While singing this song I can always feel the joy of the song rushing through me. Some lyrics from the song that show finding peace and enjoying life very well are "living in the now" and "enjoying the ride" [Overall, this song has been a joy to learn and sing, and I cannot wait to perform it for everybody.

Avery Benner:

The song that I chose is sang by a girl named Molly whose husband was just murdered by a gang member in New York City. The song describes how she is grieving. She includes the things that they did together and how she misses him and is sad about losing him. The song then builds into a feeling of anger when, for example, she says, "You took my dreams with you" and "You took my days with you" showing how she is angry that he was taken from her. Overall, she is extremely sad and is wondering how she will move on in her life without him.

Lucy Langebartels:

"A Change in Me" is from the Broadway musical of Beauty and the Beast. In this number, Belle is singing to her father after they reunite in the second act about how her perspective has changed during her time in the Beast's castle. She sings about finding a truer life and how she's changed in maturity during her time away, and how her childhood dreams have been left behind in the process.

Ramona Toops:

The song Melody Within is a beautiful song from the film Rigoletto, composed by Kurt Nestor and Micheal McLean. In the film, a character named Bonnie sings the song that describes unlocking a hidden song inside oneself, breaking free from emotional shells, and finding harmony. For me, I find so much hope and comfort in this song. Music can be an outlet for us all to break free from the worries that we are surrounded by. By doing this we can truly get lost in the melodies we find within ourselves.

Locklan Gardner:

The song "For Her" to me shows how love is so powerful and all-consuming. It shows how it can make you build your entire life around the hope of being with someone. To me, this represents how love is beautiful and worth chasing. It feels romantic because love never fades, no matter how much time passes by and no matter the barriers...

Katie Tedja:

I chose this song because I had been working on it over the summer and really connected with the story and what it conveyed. And I also want to be able to share the true meaning behind this song with other people, and that is to give thanks to God and praise Him for all He has done for us.

Charley Poe:

Meadowlark from *The Baker's Wife* was composed by Stephen Schwartz. The song is sung by a character named Geneviève, who struggles with a big life decision. In the song, she tells the story of a meadowlark who leaves a safe home to find freedom. This story acts as a metaphor for what is happening in her own life. She is deciding whether to stay in a stable but unexciting marriage or risk everything to find her passion. The song makes us reflect on our own choices and whether everything is really worth risking.

Vivian Keiper:

"I know the truth" - In *Aida the Musical*, the song "I Know the Truth" happens when Amneris begins to realize that Radames is in love with Aida, not her. Throughout the song, she struggles with feelings of jealousy, heartbreak, and betrayal as she faces the painful truth she has been avoiding. The story behind the song is powerful because it shows Amneris not as a villain, but as a real person who is hurt and desperate to hold onto someone she loves. Many people can relate to the emotions in the song because it reflects what it feels like to be left out, replaced, or lied to in a relationship or friendship. For Vivian, she had experienced these feelings before and can imagine the type of pressure and trauma it would cause if she was in the same time period as the *Aida* musical. The song gives off a lot of tension, almost like someone trying to stay strong while falling apart inside. Overall, it creates feelings of sadness, frustration, and shock, making the audience understand how painful it is to accept the truth when it breaks your heart.

Clara and Vivian Keiper:

"Some things are meant to be" - In *Little Women: The Musical*, the song "Some things are meant to be" is a quiet but powerful duet sung by Jo and Beth when they are at the seashore together after Beth has grown very ill. In the scene, Beth gently tells Jo how much she loves her and that she has come to terms with what's happening, even though Jo still hopes Beth will get better. The song beautifully captures the deep and tender bond between the two sisters, celebrating their shared memories and the love that will remain even after Beth is gone. Many people relate to this moment because it reflects the bittersweet nature of love and loss—how we hold on to what matters even when we can't change the outcome. To the Keiper sisters, it relates to them as Clara will be leaving in the fall to attend Purdue for Computer Science. Its gentle melody and honest lyrics give off a feeling of both sadness and peace, reminding listeners of their own meaningful relationships. The song resonates especially with anyone who has experienced saying goodbye to someone they care about, making it both heartbreaking and comfortingly familiar.

Marianne Moss:

"When She Loved Me" was written and composed by Randy Newman. It was recorded by Sarah McLachlan in 1999 for the film *Toy Story 2*. The song won a Grammy award for best song written for a motion picture. This song is about losing someone you love and being able to be reunited with them. This song relates to me because my grandma

passed away 6 years ago and she is very nice and caring and I know we still love each other even though she is no longer with us.

Jesse Acton:

My character, Shrek, has faced adversity, his whole life, never truly feeling like he belongs and always longing to be what he can't. In Shrek's world he's speaking to donkey and Fiona around a campfire, but in my world I'm speaking to everyone who knows in a different life, they'd be a hero right here in this room.

Stella Hall:

I'm singing Raining from Rocky the musical and I connect to it by thinking about a time when everything felt hard or stressful, like problems were just piling up. The song is about feeling overwhelmed but still not giving up. I connect it to a moment when I doubted myself or felt stuck, but I kept going anyway. When I sing it, it shows both the sadness and the strength, like even though things feel heavy, I'm still standing and pushing through.

Hudson Hyslop:

Hi my name is Hudsyn Hyslop and I will be singing "Thank You for the Music". It's composed by Benny Anderson and Björn Ulvae. It expresses a deeper sense of gratitude for the role music plays in shaping a person's life. The song reflects how music can provide purpose, emotional expression, and comfort during both good and difficult times. It suggests that music is more than just entertainment, it's something that connects people, influences identity, and adds meaning to everyday experiences. Overall, the song highlights how powerful music can be in bringing joy and helping people understand themselves and others on a deeper level.

Eli Sloan:

My character has been through a lot of self-reflection, and for a while now hasn't felt happy in his own skin. After meeting this new girl, he finally realizes how "lucky" he is to have the life he has. He is singing to the girl he has just fallen in love with, and is in a private space where it's just him and the girl.

Ava Mace:

"Pretty Funny" from Dogfight really describes that moment when you realize the person you trusted didn't see you the way you saw them. The shift from hoping you're finally being chosen to understanding you were just part of someone else's story is so emotional. There's something both heartbreaking and empowering in that because even though it hurts, it forces you to see your own worth more clearly. The song shows the power of standing up for yourself after being knocked down, and I think a lot of people can connect to that feeling of disappointment turning into strength.

Clara Keiper:

"Should I Be Sweet?" from Take A Chance is about someone who isn't sure if they should change how they act just to make someone else like them. The character in the

song asks if being nicer, quieter, or more “perfect” will help them keep a relationship, even if it means not being their true self. This creates a struggle between being real and trying to fit what other people want. Many can relate to this, especially in high school, because it’s common to feel pressure to act a certain way around someone you like or even around friends. People often wonder if they should change parts of themselves to be accepted, which makes the message of the song feel very real and easy to connect to.

Brody Cornell:

The character, Jamie, is a famous author who got successful at a young age (around his early 20s). He is married to a woman, Cathy, but as tensions in their relationship start to rise, he lets his ego take over and he ends up cheating on her. Although he thought he was in love with her, he starts to resent her, feeling like she’s restraining him. This song takes place after Jamie wakes up next to a woman who he’s having an affair with. He’s in New York during this song, and his wife is in Ohio. He alternates who he’s addressing throughout the song, going from talking to the woman he’s having an affair with to singing generally about his marriage with Cathy, reflecting on the tensions between them which lead to his resentment of her. He also addresses Cathy directly a few times in the song despite the fact she isn’t literally there with him. In the end, he decides to give up on the relationship and leave his wife.