# **Exercise 1**

# **Identifying character theme songs: before you compose**

**This exercise will help you to identify stylistic norms and elements needed to create an impressive and appropriate Theme song or “hook” for the character you choose.**

**1 Quick Name Game:**

* In pairs or groups list as many lead characters of TV, film or animation as you can
* Choose the 10 most named on the lists and research their character theme song or instrumental “hook” on YouTube®. Listen with the class.
* Discuss the following musical elements and characteristics:

**Form and structure:** is the theme a whole song, a “hook” or a “stab”?

**Timbre:** what sort of instrumentation is used and for what purpose?

**Style:** 1) Composers and era of creation of character and how that impacts the musical choices made by the composers

2) How did the genre of the character’s show influence the style of the composition?

3) Hero or Villain? How did the character’s personality determine the style and choices the composer made?

What musical elements (**rhythm; pitch** – ***(melody/harmony);* dynamics and expression; form and structure; timbre *– (tone colour);*** **and/or texture,** connect the audience with the character and how?)

1. **Choose 5 of the most interesting character theme songs**
2. **Using the Character Theme Songs you have chosen, complete the following table** showing evidence of your learnings from the Quick Name Game.

If you were absent for the above exercise, do your own YouTube® search.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Character & Show** | **Whole song/hook** | **Hero/Villain?** | **Genre/ style** | **Year written& Composer** |
| **Batman** | **Whole Song** | **Hero!** | **“ Surf Rock” and 12 Bar Blues** | **1966 Neil Hefti** |
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# **Exercise 2**

# **Planning to compose a theme song**

**What you need to know before you compose**

Make sure you answer the following questions as you start to plan for your song:

* Which is the character you chose? Why?
* What are the main characteristics and strengths of the character? Hero? Villain? Other features?
* How long should your piece be? Whole song or hook?( 32-48 bars max)
* What instrumentation are you planning on using?
* Are you planning on composing in major or minor keys, what tempo, rhythm, genre?
* Lyrics and vocals or instrumental?
* If composing digitally, what digital platform/ audio software will you use to arrange, write and record your piece?
* If performing live, who will you work with and why?
* How will you document your process for your discussion (composer’s statement)?
* How will you present your notated composition?
* What challenges do you think you might face on this task? How can you overcome them?
* How do you want the audience to feel when they hear your work?