

Where Every Song Lives in the Year

The Teach BIG songs mapped to the clusters and the writing skills they teach, Grades 3, 4, and 5

The songs are one connected system, and each one carries a skill that the scope and sequence teaches at a specific point in the year. The same song set serves all three grades, because the frameworks stay the same from third through fifth while the passages get harder and the revising and editing standards go deeper. This guide shows three things: the songs students learn first and use all year, the song that anchors each cluster's new skill, and the three threads that run through every single cluster.

1. Foundation songs: learn first, use all year

These five set up the thinking and the shape of an essay. They belong in the four week Prepare window and come back at the start of every cluster.

Song	What it teaches	Scope and sequence link
Writing Process Drill	The writing process, step by step, as a chant	Writing Process 11A / 11B
Up My Thinking Tree	The five thinking levels, from Foundational up to the highest thinking	Thinking levels (RPLD)
Every Great Essay	The whole essay at a glance: thesis, reasons or ways, evidence, explanation, significance	Genre 12 / 13
Three Pieces to a Thesis	Building a thesis from three parts: Topic, Charge, Answer	Genre 12 / 13
Reasons or Ways	Reading the prompt: WHY asks for reasons, HOW asks for ways	Responding 7C

2. Cluster anchors: the new skill each cluster adds

Each cluster introduces one new move in responding to text, and one song anchors it. This order holds across Grades 3, 4, and 5.

Cluster	Anchor song	New skill it teaches
Prepare	Writing Process Drill, Up My Thinking Tree, Three Pieces to a Thesis	Launch the process, the thinking levels, and the thesis
Cluster 1	Three Rs Jingle, Leave Some TRACKS	The short constructed response: Restate, Refer, Reflect, and the full read to respond routine
Cluster 2	CSI: Evidence Is on the Way	Choosing the best evidence: Connect, Support, Infer
Cluster 3	TREES	The full essay structure: Thesis, Reasons, Evidence, Explanation, Significance
Cluster 4	Deep Facts	Explaining evidence instead of just dropping it, elaboration
Cluster 5	Stir It Up	Inference across paired passages: evidence plus thinking makes meaning
Cluster 6	Reasons or Ways, Every Great Essay	Argument: holding reasons and ways together under one claim
Cluster 7	Leave Some TRACKS (applied to poetry)	Responding to poetry with the same evidence routine
Cluster 8	Academic Word Garden, Every Great Essay	Research and synthesis with content area vocabulary

3. Three threads that run through every cluster

These songs are never finished. They come back in all eight clusters, and the standards behind them deepen a little each time.

Thread	Song	Cadence and TEKS
Revising	Make It Stronger (R-E-A-D)	Every cluster; Rearrange, Exchange, Add, Delete. 11C , deepening from 11C(i) to 11C(x)
Editing	Sweep It Clean (E-D-I-T)	Every cluster; capitals, end marks, subject and verb agreement. 11D , widening across the year
Word study	Academic Word Garden + the 9 Big Word Detective songs	Woven all year; academic vocabulary plus prefixes, roots, and suffixes

4. The Big Word Detective songs across the grades

The nine morphology songs are a year long thread. Rather than split them by type, we introduce them by difficulty in groups of about ten, the simplest in Grade 3, the middle level in Grade 4, and the hardest in Grade 5. Each grade gets about ten prefixes, ten roots, and ten suffixes, one song of each. A teacher may also use songs from other grade levels for extra exposure.

Grade	Prefixes	Roots	Suffixes
Grade 3 simplest	Numbers and Size uni, bi, tri, poly, semi, micro, macro	Words and Senses graph, dict, audi, phon, spect	People and Doers er, or, ist, ian, eer
Grade 4 middle	Where and Which Way sub, super, inter, trans, circum	Life and Earth bio, geo, terr, photo, chrono	Describers ful, less, able, ous, ive
Grade 5 hardest	No and Not un, non, in, im, dis, anti, contra, de	People and Power duc, port, mand, jur, greg, cred, fid	States and Qualities tion, sion, ment, ity, ance, ence

The difficulty tiering above is my proposal, based on how concrete and familiar each set is. Any song can move up or down a grade; tell me the order you want and I will lock it in.

Every cluster carries Responding with Evidence 7Ci, so the evidence songs above are reinforced in all eight, even though each one is first taught where the table shows it. The order of the cluster anchors follows the current Grade 3, 4, and 5 scope and sequence. Any song can be moved earlier or later; this map reflects where each skill first appears today.