

Task Cards

Children's Song Titles Sentence or Fragment?

by Margaret Whisnant

Classifying the titles of children's songs as Sentences or Fragments is not as easy as it sounds. As a matter of fact, it requires some careful observation. The song titles listed on this set of 20 cards (two per card) are more than enough to cause 4th-6th graders to break out in a bout of thinking.

The challenge lies in the fact that song titles can be complete sentences, but they are not written in everyday form with full punctuation and capitalization. Students will have to stop and think about the structure requirements of a proper sentence to see how the song title measures up. Some reverse the familiar subject and verb order (There Was a Crooked Man), and they are apt to illustrate the understood "you." (Hush, Little Baby). Even the fragments can be confusingly loaded with action (Over the River and Through the Woods), making them appear to be sentences.

These cards, also usable as bell ringers, are a fun way to review and recheck this skill, especially for older students who will enjoy a look back at the music that was once at the top of their charts.

A cover card, a student instruction card, and an answer sheet are printed on the next-to-last page of the file. Kudos to those who recognize the line of music that appears on every card.

Answer keys are located on the last page.

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Sentence or Fragment?

- A. Baby Bumblebee
- B. Mary Had a Little Lamb



Sentence or Fragment?

- A. Itsy Bitsy Spider
- B. Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star



Sentence or Fragment?

- A. On Top of Spaghetti
- B. The Wheels on the Bus



Sentence or Fragment?

- A. You Are My Sunshine
- B. Billy Boy

