**Dayton Heights Elementary School’s**

**Great Big Songbook of Science!**

**(and one boycott)**

by the brilliant young writers of DHE, with some help from their teachers and GriffinEd

*If you can talk, you can sing; if you can walk, you can dance. –Ghanian proverb*

This book and concert are the result of an eight part songwriting residency where the students of DHE and their teachers chose topics of current study; identified the main and supporting ideas; researched and organized key details; composed rhymed lines to explain their knowledge; and chose tunes to which they wanted to sing their songs. Tim Griffin of GriffinEd guided their writing process and helped revise their lyrics to better fit the tunes. Our goals for the residency are that students will master the academic topics they write about, get comfortable with a structured writing process for organizing their ideas, and have a lot of fun doing so. Each class finished two songs; here they are! This residency was sponsored by two generous donors who wish to remain anonymous; for more information on GriffinEd’s writing workshops and other services, please visit **www.GriffinEd.org**

**Conserving Water** by Ms. Blanco’s class (2nd grade)

(may be sung to the tune of **I Want A Hippopotamus For Christmas** by John Rox)

chords: G, C, D, D7, F, C, G7, A

Now, when we use the water in the bathroom

It’s the water we are working to conserve

When we brush we try to keep the faucet dry

If I waste the water then my mama’s gonna cry

I always try to take a shorter shower

Instead of twenty minutes I take five

And in the bath I say, just fill it up halfway

I get right in and with my rubber ducky I will play

You know we live in Southern California

Where it’s really dry

With the climate that we got, it’s often dry and hot

And it may not rain for a long long time

So when we use the water in the bathroom

We will only use the water that we need

When we want a drink we’ll get it from the sink

We’ll save a lot of water if we only stop and think

And we’ll have water in the summer, guaranteed!

**Every Living Creature** by Ms. Blanco’s class (2nd grade)

(this one has no tune, but is done as a rap to a simple 4/4 rhythm)

Every living creature’s got to eat

Like a fennec hunting mice in the Sahara

When a monkey wants to eat, a banana is a treat

And an anaconda eats a capybara

A whale shark can fill her big belly up with krill

And for a zebra, the grass is pretty good

You know that every creature needs its own special kind of feed

So it really shouldn’t eat your food.

Every living creature’s got to move

Like a turtle swimming slowly in the sea

Consider now the rabbit, for whom hopping is a habit

Or a monkey brachiating in a tree

A horse’ll gallop hither while a snake can only slither

An anemone just waves to and fro

Every living thing must move with its own special groove

Every creature has a special way to go.

Every living creature needs a home

It needs a habitat to feed and breed and grow

The arctic is where you’ll find a snowshoe hare

And a prairie’s where the buffalo will roam

Antarctica is nice for a penguin on the ice

And for a dromedary, deserts feel fine

You know that every organism has to have a home that fits ‘em

Though it isn’t quite the same as yours or mine.

Every living creature has to breed

It’s got to propagate; at least it’s got to try

You know a bird will do her best to hatch a hatchling in her nest

And a fish will have a fingerling or fry

A kid’s a baby goat, while a hog will have a shoat

And a joey is a baby kangaroo

You know that every creature tries to reproduce before it dies

And if it fails, its genetic line is through.

**Adaptations In The Sea** by Ms. Ali’s class (3rd grade)

(may be sung to the tune of **SpongeBob Squarepants theme** by Derek Drymon et al)

chords: C, F, G

The shark’s teeth are perfect for catching a fish (adaptation!)

Tuna tartare is really delish (adaptation!)

The shark lays eggs that are big brown and ugly (adaptation!)

But it helps her babies survive in the sea (adaptation!)

Adaptations for survival, physical or behavioral adaptions!

The blue whale’s the biggest that you’ve ever seen (adaptation!)

He filters for food with a mouth of baleen (adaptation!)

He surveys the sea by making a sound (adaptation!)

And such a good swimmer, he doesn’t get drowned! (adaptation!)

Adaptations for survival, physical or behavioral adaptions!

The sea turtle’s body is inside a shell (adaptation!)

Protects it from predators pretty well (adaptation!)

The sea turtle’s babies are born on the land (adaptation!)

‘Cause mommy lays eggs in a hole in the sand! (adaptation!)

Adaptations for survival, physical or behavioral adaptions!

Anenome’s enemies see him with fear (adaptation!)

With tentacle cells like a little spear (adaptation!)

Nemotocysts puncture, deliver a sting (adaptation!)

Anenome catches and eats everything! (adaptation!)

Adaptations for survival, physical or behavioral adaptions!

**Climate Change** by Ms. Ali’s class (3rd grade)

(may be sung to the tune of **Happy** by Pharrell Williams)

chords: E7, A, B, C, Bm. Bm7

Tornadoes, hurricanes, drought and fire

Are happening more now the temperature’s higher

Feels like the weather’s been getting strange

Maybe it’s because of climate change

Factories and cars and trucks are burning fossil fuel for you

But that releases greenhouse gases like methane and CO2

People wonder if the climate’s changing, the scientists say it’s true

But we can undo climate change if that’s what we want to do

Making changes doesn’t have to be a pain

Ride to school or work in the bike lane

Try to keep it short when you take a shower

Maybe heat the water with solar power

Factories and cars and trucks are burning fossil fuel for you

But that releases greenhouse gases like methane and CO2

People wonder if the climate’s changing, the scientists say it’s true

But we can undo climate change if that’s what we want to do

If we don’t do anything to clear our skies

We’ll get more disasters and the sea may rise

I love the beach but it doesn’t sound good to me

To wake up and find my house under the sea

Factories and cars and trucks are burning fossil fuel for you

But that releases greenhouse gases like methane and CO2

People wonder if the climate’s changing, the scientists say it’s true

But we can undo climate change if that’s what we want to do

**Rosa’s Boycott** by Ms. Bilovsky’s class (4th grade)

to the tune of **Despacito** by Luis Fonsi

chords: Bm, G, D, A

In Montgomery, December 1955

Rosa wouldn’t stand up on the bus, oh no

The blacks were told to give their seats up for the whites

Rosa thought the Jim Crow laws were nuts

Some people said resistance didn’t make much sense

When her friends all came and made her bail that night

But Rosa’s act of civil disobedience

Inspired a boycott of Montgomery City Lines

Segregation is dangerous for our nation

Rosa deserves an ovation, her courage and determination

Were an inspiration, a demonstration for integration, she persuaded the population

Of the need for participation in a bus boycott

The MIA and then the NAACP

Organized and soon sent out the call

They said, “Under segregation we’re not really free”

So they agreed they would not ride the bus at all

They carpooled and they walked to work for over a year

With the bus line losing money every day

And when the city changed the law the people cheered

Because they’d found a peaceful means to get their way

Segregation is dangerous for our nation

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**Banana Bread Army** by Ms. Bilovsky’s class (4th grade)

(may be sung to the tune of **Seven Nation Army** by Jack White)

chords: Em, C, B, A (a kazoo or two can play the power chord line nicely)

I love banana bread, I was looking up a recipe

But in the book I read, the recipe was too complicated for me

I had to measure fractions of a cup for the ingredients

But the halves and the quarters and the eighths didn’t make much sense

Then I called my friend, she said said some fractions are equivalent

You measure with a cup, two eighths are the same as a quarter you see

Or you can add ‘em up, two eighths plus a half will get you quarters three

Eight eighths, four quarters, or two halves will make a whole

So measure the ingredients and put them in a mixing bowl

Do the same with your spoons and it’s nearly time to rock and roll

Heat the oven up, get help if you need it from your mom or dad

Be sure to stir it up, gonna make the best banana bread you ever had

There are fractions of weight and volume when you learn to cook

Even fractions on a stick of butter if you take a look

But with equivalent fractions, you can do the whole cookbook!

**Recipe: (**[**www.simplyrecipes.com**](http://www.simplyrecipes.com)**)**

3 very ripe medium bananas (or 2 large), peeled

1/3 cup melted butter

1 teaspoon [baking soda](https://www.simplyrecipes.com/the_difference_between_baking_soda_and_baking_powder/)

Pinch of salt

3/4 cup sugar (1/2 cup if you would like it less sweet, 1 cup if more sweet)

1 large egg, beaten

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 1/2 cups of all-purpose flour

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C), and butter a 4x8-inch loaf pan.

2. In a mixing bowl, mash the ripe bananas with a fork until completely smooth. Stir the melted butter into the mashed bananas.

3. Mix in the baking soda and salt. Stir in the sugar, beaten egg, and vanilla extract. Mix in the flour.

4. Pour the batter into your prepared loaf pan. Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour at 350°F (175°C), or until a tester inserted into the center comes out clean.

5. Remove from oven and let cool in the pan for a few minutes. Then remove the banana bread from the pan and let cool completely before serving. Slice and serve. (A bread knife helps to make slices that aren't crumbly.)