

Blues Quatrains!!

OK, I'm not going to say I have a favorite, but...

BLUES ARE LIFE

In fact, I'll write a song about it:

The blues are life, and life is the blues
The blues are life honey, and life is the blues
If you wanna hit those high notes baby,
You gotta pay your blues dues

Lol

Some people mistakenly think that the blues are depressing. In fact, the blues are a **way to deal with depressing things**. Look at some examples:

The thrill is gone, The thrill is gone away
The thrill is gone baby, The thrill is gone away
You know you done me wrong baby
And you'll be sorry someday --B.B. King

This is about something sad - he is no longer in love with his woman. But he is using the blues to try to get rid of this sadness.

Sittin' down by my window, Honey, lookin' out at the rain.
Lord, Lord, Lord, sittin' down by my window, Baby, lookin' out at the rain.
Somethin' came along, grabbed a hold of me,
And it felt just like a ball and chain. --Janis Joplin

Janis is freaked out about being tied down by love. I hear you Janis. But singing this song lets it all out and makes you feel better.

Big boss man, can't you hear me when I call
Big boss man, can't you hear me when I call
Well, you ain't so big,
you're just tall, that's all --Jimmy Reed

You can even use the blues to stick it to the man - work might suck, but you still have your voice!

How to write a blues quatrain

Step 1: Brainstorm some things that are getting you down:

ex: student loans

Step 2: Pick one and write it as a line of poetry

ex: I am so broke, I hate these student loans

Step 3: Repeat it but add "baby" or "honey" or something like that.

ex: I am so broke, I hate these student loans

I am so broke baby, I hate these student loans

Step 4: This is the only tricky part. You need to rhyme the last word of the whole quatrain with the last word in the first two lines.

ex: loan = phone, alone, own, drone, cone, blown, thrown, crone, grown (etc.)

Step 5: Finish it up:

ex: I am so broke, I hate these student **loans**

I am so broke baby, I hate these student **loans**

Wish someone would come and help me

But I guess I'm on my **own**

OK! You have one! Your assignment is to write 4 more (5 total). They can all be about the same theme, or they don't have to connect. Write a blues song and get those blues out of there!