

## English Rhymes, Raps and Chants

### Pre-session webquest

*Below are the lyrics to a popular British rhyme, use Google to fill the gaps.*

Half a pound of \_\_\_\_\_,

Half a pound of \_\_\_\_\_,

That's the way the \_\_\_\_\_ goes.

Pop! Goes the \_\_\_\_\_.

Up and down the \_\_\_\_\_,

In and out the \_\_\_\_\_,

That's the way the \_\_\_\_\_ goes.

Pop! Goes the \_\_\_\_\_.

*What do you think the song is about? Write your ideas below and compare them with other students.*

*Now use Google to find the real meaning of the lyrics. There is more than one idea about what they mean. Which do you think is the most believable?*

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### Post-session worksheet

Where should you sing the song “Everywhere We Go”?

- In school
- At the dentist’s
- On a coach
- On a bicycle

Which of these is not one of Julie Andrews’ favourite things?

- Raindrops on roses
- Whiskers on kittens
- Warm woollen mittens (gloves)
- Instagram selfies

What historical event is described in the song “London’s Burning”?

- The First World War
- The Great Fire of London
- The Second World War
- Britain leaving the European Union

Circle the words below which do not rhyme with the other three

hair	bear	her	Fair
remove	love	shove	glove
although	mow	grow	cow
tip	lip	leap	hip

Think of one more word to rhyme with each of the groups above

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- 
-

•  
Circle the words below which have a different stress pattern to the other three

amazing	confusing	boring	exciting
tomato	zucchini	strawberry	cucumber
Berlin	London	Warsaw	
boyfriend	best friend	girlfriend	



## English Rhymes, Raps and Chants

### Reading comprehension (higher)

***Read about female rappers in the UK and answer the questions on the next page...***

In the heart of south-east London, Red Bull Studios is buzzing. Lady Leshurr, one of the biggest rap stars in Britain right now, has invited six artists – all women – to a workshop so they can record some of their own material.

“I played two beats – a hip hop beat and a grime beat – both produced by me and then they put their own flavour to it,” the award-nominated artist explains. “And I just said: ‘go hard.’ I want people to have fun with it.”

While hip hop is enjoying something of a renaissance in the UK, the scene is largely dominated by men. Voices such as Lady Leshurr, Little Simz, Nadia Rose and Ms Banks are here to change that.

The bars these women spit out in the studio speak of female empowerment, political and social oppression, and their own ambition. In between takes they compare ideas, opinions, and joke about how the boys will react to the result of their efforts today. It’s a powerful thing to witness. What this session is about, more than anything, is Lady Leshurr using her influence to give fellow artists a boost, in an industry where there are so few opportunities for women.

“The industry’s always been quite sexist, it’s male-dominated and I don’t think that’ll ever change,” she says. “People also think that we’re doing a man’s job so we get 10 times the pressure, the stress, and we always have to make sure our makeup’s nice, our outfits... compared to a man who’d just throw on a tracksuit and a snapback and just freestyle in front of a camera. No one ever comments on that, on YouTube or anything, if it’s a man. But if we [women] don’t look 10/10 for

them, they always comment on what we look like before hearing what we've got to say. And that's never gonna change."

"I put this on to make people more aware that girls are doing this and most of them are better than males," she says. "I actually want to work with a few of the women here. I'm watching how passionate and serious they are, and that makes me think that they'r success."



## English Rhymes, Raps and Chants

### Questions (higher)

***Why have the six rappers been invited to the studio by Lady Leshurr?***

- a) To record vocals for her album
- b) To record their own music
- c) To audition for a TV programme
- d) To try a new flavour of energy drink

***What is the situation like for hip-hop in the UK?***

- a) There are more men than women
- b) There are more women than men
- c) There are as many women as there are men
- d) There are only men

***What is Lady Leshurr's aim for the project?***

- a) To find new music for her record company
- b) To show that women are better than men
- c) To help the other rappers become more confident
- d) To help promote female rappers

***Which of these is not an example of how the rap industry is harder for women?***

- a) Women don't listen to hip-hop as much as men
- b) They are judged on their appearance more than men
- c) People think that rapping is a "man's job"
- d) There are more men than women in the business



## **English Rhymes, Raps and Chants**

### **Reading comprehension (lower)**

***Read about female rappers in the UK and answer the questions on the next page...***

We are in a studio in south-east London. Everybody is very excited. Lady Leshurr, who is one of the biggest rap stars in Britain right now, has invited six female artists to come and record some of their own songs.

Hip hop is very popular in the UK, but most rappers are men. People like Lady Leshurr, Little Simz, Nadia Rose and Ms Banks are here to change that.

These women rap about feminism, political and social problems, and their own ambition. It's a powerful thing to see. What this session is about, more than anything, is Lady Leshurr using her fame to give fellow artists more publicity. This is important because in this industry there are not many opportunities for women.

"The industry's always been quite sexist, most people in it are men and I don't think that'll ever change," she says. "People also think that we're doing a man's job so we get 10 times the pressure, the stress, and we always have to make sure our makeup and clothes are nice. Men can just wear a tracksuit and a hat when they record a video. On Youtube, no one ever talks about these things if it's

a man. But if we [women] don't look 10/10 for them, they always comment on what we look like before hearing what we've got to say. And that's never gonna change."

"I started this project to make people more aware that girls are doing this and most of them are better than males," she says. "I actually want to work with a few of the women here. I'm watching how passionate and serious they are, and that makes me think that they're ready for the next level of success."



## **English Rhymes, Raps and Chants**

### **Questions (lower)**

***Why have the six rappers been invited to the studio by Lady Leshurr?***

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- f) To record their own music
- g) To audition for a TV programme
- h) To try a new flavour of energy drink

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- g) People think that rapping is a "man's job"
- h) There are more men than women in the business