

# Drawing What You Hear



**Give it a Listen:** Season 3, Episode 22: Chicken on a Motorcycle/The Donut Gymnast

**What's this activity about?** Getting inspiration from music to draw original characters

**What stuff do I need to do it?** Pencil, paper, your Creator Club notebook, Drawing What You Hear Sheet, Chicken on a Motorcycle mp3, "Character Themes" Spotify playlist (optional)

Where do artists go for inspiration when they want to draw something new and creative? Some artists come up with ideas by listening to music--like the theme song to "Chicken on a Motorcycle," a story by two kids from Arizona named Mason and Stanford. That's right! That theme song inspired one of our Story Pirates artists to draw some pictures. Check them out on the "Drawing What You Hear" sheet, and keep reading for tips on how to use music to help YOU draw!

- 1. Warm Up:** listen to music! As you listen, think about what you hear and how it makes you feel. Then, as the music plays, start drawing. Don't worry about erasing anything or making it perfect (or even making it look like anything at all!) Just draw lines, shapes, or scenes that match what you hear. Are there sharp corners? smooth curves? Do you take your pen/pencil/crayon off the page a lot, or keep it there? If you like, try it with two very different songs and see if a friend or family member can guess which warm-up goes with which song. Feel free to use our "Character Themes" Spotify playlist if you want somewhere to start!
- 2. Theme Song Characters:** pick a piece of music from the "[Character Themes](#)" playlist, or another song that you like. It doesn't need to have words. Listen to it, and imagine what sort of character might have this song as their theme song. Are they energetic? Calm? Angry? Proud? How do they walk or move? Can you picture a scene in your mind? Try to base your answers on the sounds you hear, and then start drawing that character! For examples, see the "Drawing What You Hear" sheet!
- 3. Bonus SPEED ROUND:** If you want to create a lot of characters very quickly, try listening to a playlist--either ours, or another playlist of songs you like. You have the length of each song to draw a character whose theme song is whatever song you're listening to. When that song changes, start on a new character. You can always come back to your drawings to finish them or make adjustments later.

Grownups, share some drawings with us, and let us know what song inspired them! Visit **Share It:** [storypiratescreatorclub.com/submit](http://storypiratescreatorclub.com/submit), or just share on social media with #StoryPirates. Email [creatorclub@storypirates.org](mailto:creatorclub@storypirates.org) if you have any questions.

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Note to grownups: except for the “Chicken on a Motorcycle” theme, the songs referenced on this page are all in the Character Themes playlist we put on Spotify. If you don’t use Spotify, these songs are widely available on any streaming service.

## SAMPLE WARM-UPS



This warm-up was to “The Bird” by Sergei Prokofiev. It moves more smoothly, with little flutters and moments of excitement!



This warm-up was to “The Cat” by Sergei Prokofiev. It was much more slinky with edges and turns. Can you guess what part in the song led to this part of the drawing?

## SAMPLE CHARACTERS FROM SONGS

★ Take a look at these characters and read Story Pirate Artist Camilla’s notes. Can you guess which song is each character’s theme? Your choices are:

1. “Chicken on a Motorcycle” by Mason, Stanford, and the Story Pirates
2. “Flight of the Bumblebee” by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
3. “Bean’s Secret Cider Cellar” by Alexandre Desplat
4. “Kangaru” by Jóhan Jóhannsson



A.

“This song is so fast and frantic! It makes me feel stressed out but also excited. I wanted to draw a character who never stops darting and looking around.”



B.

“The music sounds exciting and cool. I decided to draw a character who is confident and knows how to make an entrance.”



C.

“The music sounds otherworldly, mysterious, and floaty. I tried to draw a character who is all those things!”



D.

“The music sounds very adventurous and bouncy, which made me want to draw an adventurer who moves by bouncing around!”