



# Year 5 – Spring 2 - The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

## Listen & Appraise: The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air (Hip Hop)

**Structure:** Piano intro, verse 1, verse 2, chorus, verse 3, interlude, chorus, verse 4 with tag ending.  
**Instruments/sounds you can hear:** Loops, samples, decks, scratching, drums, bass, synthesizer, rapper.  
 - Can you find the pulse as you are listening?  
 - Is the tempo fast, slow or inbetween?  
 - Can you describe the dynamics? Texture?

### Musical Activities

using glockenspiels for the note playing

**Warm-up games** play and copy back using up to 3 notes – D, E and F.

**Singing/rapping** in unison.

**Play instrumental parts** with the song by ear and/or from notation using up to 3 notes – D, G and A.

**Improvise** using up to 3 notes – D, E and F.

**Compose a simple melody** using simple rhythms choosing from the notes D, E and F or D, E, F, G and A.

### Perform & Share

- Decide how you will introduce the performance.
- Perhaps add some choreography?
- Tell your audience how you learnt this song and why.
- Record the performance and talk about it afterwards.

### Other song suggestions

- Listen to 5 other hip hop songs:
- Me Myself and I by De La Soul
  - Ready or Not by Fugees
  - Rapper’s Delight by The Sugarhill Gang
  - U Can’t Touch This by MC Hammer
  - It’s Like That by Run DMC

### Extra facts/information

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air was written and performed by Will Smith in 1990 for a television series of the same name. The music and show were written by Quincy Jones.

### Musical Concepts

#### Pulse and Rhythm

Pulse is the heartbeat or steady beat of a song/piece of music – what we tap or clap along to. Rhythm is the combination of long and short sounds to make patterns.

#### Timbre

Timbre is the unique sound quality which helps us to distinguish between different instruments and voices. The different ways an instrument is played can change its timbre.

### Year group and unit specific vocabulary

- Time signature** – Shows how many beats are in a bar, e.g.  $\frac{4}{4}$  means 4 crotchet beats in a bar (top number=how many beats, bottom number=type of beat).
- Staff** – The five parallel lines on which musical notes are written.
- Scale** – An arrangement of notes in ascending and descending order.
- Solo** – An Italian word used to describe playing/singing/performing on our own.
- Unison** – Singing or playing the same tune together.
- Hip-Hop** – Music that developed in the 1970s but remains very popular today. It includes rapping.
- Riff** – A short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone.
- Synthesizer** – An electric instrument that looks like a keyboard and has pre-recorded and created sounds.
- Decks** – Equipment used by DJs, MCs, and Rappers to mix sounds from different records and to make effects e.g. scratching that was first used in the late 1970s.
- Funk** – Music with strong bass lines and a heavy beat.
- Cover** – A version of a song performed by someone other than the original artist that might sound a bit (or very) different.