

Diary – Wednesday, July 14

Mini story: Exploring the Language of Song-Writing

Children are both consumers and creators of music. The music they create generally represents a fleeting moment in time that is difficult to capture and most often lost. Here we have been lucky enough to leave traces of what is usually a limited edition performance.



Inspired by straw we had brought back to the school yard from a trip around the property to look at the growing fruit, the children develop a somewhat urgent playscript of building a barn before they freeze from the coming winter. They use the straw along with medium-sized waffle blocks, burlap sacks and the summer prunings from the grape vines. They hurry to collect and store enough food for the cold months ahead.

During a lull in the urgency of the play, teacher Emily muses: “Your play reminds me of a song. Would you like to hear it?” They would.

The North Wind Doth Blow

The North Wind doth blow and soon it will snow. What will the rob-in do then, poor thing. He'll sit in the barn to keep him-self warm. Hide his head un-der his wing, poor thing.

This inspired a deluge of child-composed songs and sent Emily running for her tape recorder. She was able to capture the following collection of songs which are clearly inspired by the other songs in the collection, but original nonetheless:

Winter is Coming by Maya

Win - ter is com - ing. Win - ter is now. What is the dove going to do? She will not lay an egg. She will not lay an egg. What will she do? She is. She is dead.

What Will the Duck Do? by Julia

What will the duck do? What will the duck do? It won't lay an egg. It won't lay an egg. It's so cold. It's so cold. It won't keep it-self warm. And what will it do? What will it do? It's dead.

* Dylan announced that he had a song...It is still forthcoming. *

A Duck Song by Ryan
"Peep peep peep **SQUEAK**"



What do these songs tell us about each child's musical literacy? What do they tell us about the topic of birds in winter? Emily's father used to sing the "The North Wind Doth Blow" to her when she was a child. She remembers finding it a heavy song, but not unbearable. It is interesting that Maya and Julia seem to interpret the song to be implying that the robin dies in the end.

