



Harps North West
Charity number 1093441

Bite size Composition

THEME - Using titles to guide musical character.

Words can inspire music in lots of ways.

Never underestimate the **power of a title** - starting with a title can give you guidance when deciding on the musical features which create the character of your piece.

Think about how the following titles could guide your decision on:

Key - Major, minor, other mode, atonal, experimental

Time - strict or free. strong beats, 3, 4, 6 etc, or no strict time.

Texture - sparse notes, or lots all at once.

Tempo - fast/slow/changeable

Rhythms - repetitive patterns, or lots of variety

Length - long ambling piece or short and sweet.

Structure - will it have definable sections or flow all the way through.

Techniques and **effects** - glissando, xylophonics, harmonics, dampening.

Exercise

For a bit fun with freedom of any notes any movement have a go at playing around with ideas inspired by any of the following titles:

Twinkle Toes
The Lonely Crab
The Conversation
Down the Plug Hole
Popcorn
Serenity

You can try the same approach with any titles/image captions that you might have in mind already.

**Have fun!
Susan @ HNW**