TARBORO BLUES WRITING ACTIVITY

Your assignment is to write an eight line blues **call** and **response** ballad. You first will write words that tell a story, then add a melody.

See the following example:

(call) (response)
I woke up this morning, Oh Yes.

And what did I see, Oh Yes.

I saw your picture, Oh Yes.

Just looking at me, Oh Yes.

You are so lovely, Oh Yes.

So lovely to see, Oh Yes.

I am so lucky, Oh Yes.

That you love only me, Oh Yes.

Your instructions are:

1. Get into groups of 3. Be sure that one of you can read and write music.

2. Use a keyboard instrument for writing your melody.

3. Write words (lyrics) for eight lines, for a blues call and response.
   Your call is a type of story (ballad), something you are trying to say.
   Your response is a continued group response at the end of every line such as
   Oh Yeah,
   Oh Yes, Oh yes
   Varoom, Varoom

   Make your activity very jazzy

3. Begin your lyrics with <u>one</u> of the following phrases:

   "I work up this morning"

   "I am so happy"

   "Let me tell you a story"

   "Let me tell you about _____"

   "I really am worried"

4. Use one of your topics from your list to finish your remaining 7 lines of lyrics (You may write more-12, 16, etc.)

5. When you have finished your lyrics, then set them to music.

6. Use a scale starting on Middle C and moving upward. Use the following notes:
   C, d, e♭ , f, g, a♭ , b, c.

   1) Begin and end your first line on C, e♭, or g

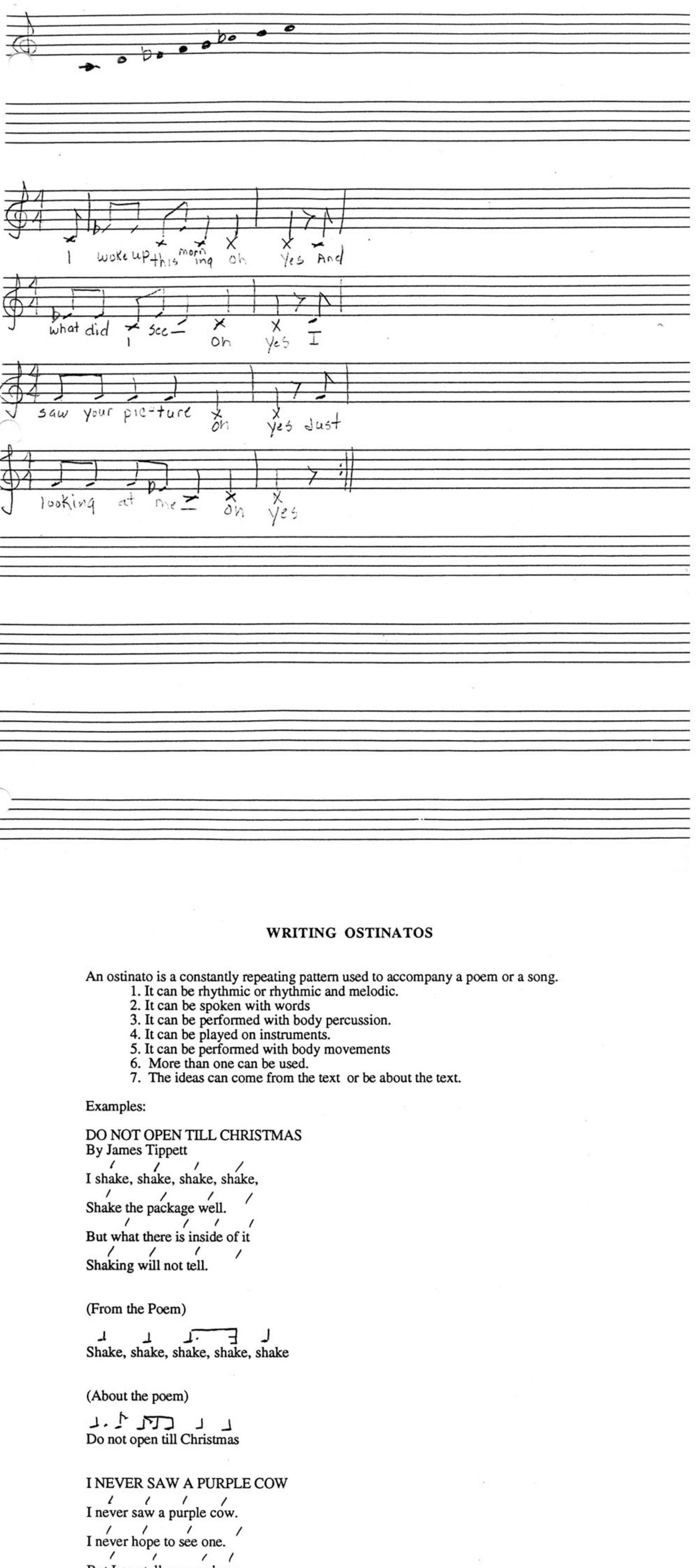
   2) end your second line on some other note

   3) end your 4th line on Middle C.

   4) Make the melody of your next 4 lines (5, 6, 7, 8) just like your first 4 lines.

   5) Next add your response. Your response can be spoken, sung, and/or played on instruments.

7. When you present your song to the class, your group will sing the **call** and the class will sing the **response**. You can add instruments to the response.



WRITING OSTINATOS

An ostinato is a constantly repeating pattern used to accompany a poem or a song.

1. It can be rhythmic or rhythmic and melodic.
2. It can be spoken with words
3. It can be performed with body percussion.
4. It can be played on instruments.
5. It can be performed with body movements
6. More than one can be used.
7. The ideas can come from the text or be about the text.

Examples:

DO NOT OPEN TILL CHRISTMAS
By James Tippett

I shake, shake, shake, shake,
Shake the package well.
But what there is inside of it
Shaking will not tell.

(From the Poem)

Shake, shake, shake, shake, shake

(About the poem)

Do not open till Christmas

I NEVER SAW A PURPLE COW

I never saw a purple cow.
I never hope to see one.
But I can tell you anyhow
I'd rather see than be one.

(From the poem)

Cow, cow, purple cow
What a sight, oh my (about the poem)