

# Character Traits

## The Many Hats of Jennifer Lynn

Lyrics and Script by Stuart Murray  
Music by Craig Cassils

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#### Themes & Variations

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# Character Traits:

## The Many Hats of Jennifer Lynn

### Synopsis:

Jennifer Lynn finds herself in the mysterious maze of “Life Situations”. By her side is a milliner (hat maker) who has a box of magic hats. Each hat represents a positive human character trait that, when worn, empowers the wearer to demonstrate that particular trait. As they progress through the strange land, they come to different doors they must pass through. Behind each door is a different life situation to overcome requiring a certain character trait. The milliner hands over the appropriate hat each time to help Jennifer Lynn get through the maze. At the end of the maze she realizes she doesn’t really need to wear all six hats to be a better person. It is the character traits in her heart that matter most.

### Characters:

Jennifer Lynn - a young girl around 8 years old who loves going on rides at fairs

Mr. Milliner - a milliner with a box of special hats

Narrators 1, 2, 3 - three students to narrate the action. (These parts could be divided among more students.)

Guards 1-7 - stand at the front of the different doors in the maze

### Stage:

The stage can be set very simply. A large sign (“Life Situations Maze”) could hang behind the choir. Cedar hedges could be painted on art paper and hung on the walls to give the illusion of a type of green maze. The maze path itself would be in front of the choir on the stage. The doors and the maze path can be imaginary, or one door could be used over and over with only the signs being changed as needed. There is a large hat stand placed beside the choir, visible to the audience.

The choir could be on risers behind the main actors. This could be performed as a reader’s theater script with the two main characters standing in front of the choir, to one side, with the guards and narrators standing on the opposite side. The guards and narrators could also be part of the choir. They would step into position as the script calls for. They would hold up the sign for the door they guard or they could place the sign on the door, if a real door is being used.

### Props:

Hats - 7 special hats (Options: they could all be baseball caps, or a variety of styles and colors.)

Box for hats

Hat rack

Large hanging sign - Life Situations

6 hand-held signs - Responsibility, Courage, Integrity, Kindness, Self-Discipline, Perseverance

### Costumes:

Jennifer Lynn - dressed brightly to stand out from all others

Mr. Milliner - suit jacket

Guards - could share military style jacket and hat

Narrators - could wear whatever the choir is wearing

Choir - could wear a variety of hats

### Options:

The songs in this collection could be used without the script for such things as Word of the Month or assemblies.

Because the songs refer to hats, a brief introduction could be used to set up the song and make it work, such as:

“Sometimes we choose to wear a hat. We take it and put it on our head. When we talk about a character trait, it’s all about making a choice too. We can choose to be a positive person and to act a certain way - just like choosing to put a hat on our head. Let’s see what we can choose to put on today!”

The ending song (It’s Not About the Hats) could be a repeated theme song, as a follow-up to each Word of the Month.

# 1. Responsibility Song

Two Equal Parts

Lyrics by Stuart Murray  
Music by Craig Cassils

Rock ♩ = 116

*mf*

The piano introduction consists of four measures. The right hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line.

5 *mf* Part 1

Part 2

Re - spon - si - bi - li - ty! — Re - spon - si - bi - li - ty! —

Measures 5-8 show the vocal melody for two parts. Part 1 starts with a dotted quarter note followed by eighth notes. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern as the introduction.

9 Part 1

Part 2

All spoken

Part 1

Such a big word but what does it mean? What does it mean? What does it mean? — It

Measures 9-12 continue the vocal melody. The piano accompaniment remains consistent. The final measure of this system includes a 'All spoken' section with a different rhythmic pattern.

13

Part 2

Part 1

means look-ing af - ter things trust-ed to you. — Like my dog? Like my cat? It

Measures 13-16 conclude the vocal melody. The piano accompaniment continues with the established rhythmic pattern.

# 4. Kindness Song

Unison

Lyrics by Stuart Murray  
Music by Craig Cassils

Gently ♩ = 112

*mf*

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes in a major key, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. The music is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte).

5 *mf*

Kind - ness, — don't you know, It may come, — it may go.

The first line of lyrics is set to music. The vocal line is on a single staff with a treble clef. The piano accompaniment is on two staves. The lyrics are: "Kind - ness, — don't you know, It may come, — it may go." The music is marked *mf*.

9

Kind - ness, — it would seem, should be more — than just a dream.

The second line of lyrics is set to music. The vocal line is on a single staff with a treble clef. The piano accompaniment is on two staves. The lyrics are: "Kind - ness, — it would seem, should be more — than just a dream." The music is marked *mf*.

13

Kind-ness is shown by those who care, — Like giv-ing up your treat to share. —

The third line of lyrics is set to music. The vocal line is on a single staff with a treble clef. The piano accompaniment is on two staves. The lyrics are: "Kind-ness is shown by those who care, — Like giv-ing up your treat to share. —" The music is marked *mf*.

# 5. Self-Discipline Song

Two Parts

Lyrics by Stuart Murray  
Music by Craig Cassils

Rock ♩ = 126

Part 1 *mf*

The first system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, starting with a whole rest for three measures followed by a quarter note G4. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, starting with a *mf* dynamic, featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, featuring a simple bass line of quarter notes.

I'm

The second system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, starting with a measure rest, then singing 'put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my hat of self-disc-i-pline. I'm'. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, continuing the rhythmic pattern from the first system. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, continuing the bass line.

Part 1

put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my hat of self-disc-i-pline. I'm

The third system of music consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, starting with a measure rest, then singing 'put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my hat of self-disc-i-pline.'. The second staff is a vocal line in treble clef, labeled 'Part 2', starting with a measure rest, then singing 'Put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my self-disc-i-pline.'. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, continuing the rhythmic pattern. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, continuing the bass line.

put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my hat of self-disc-i-pline.

Part 2

Put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my hat, put-ting on my self-disc-i-pline.