

ENRICHMENT GUIDE

EMILY SONG AND THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

BOOK, LYRICS, MUSIC &
ORCHESTRATIONS BY
MARCUS YI

SPONSORED BY



DEAR FIRST STAGE FRIENDS,

Emily Song had always known that she was meant to sing. However, her father banned music from their lives for as long as she can remember. But that doesn't stop Emily from secretly taking singing lessons online or joining the school glee club.

On her 12th birthday, Emily's powers manifest and she discovers she is a music mage – a sorcerer who can cast magical spells through music.

When the Queen of the Night kidnaps her father and best friend, Emily must figure out how to harness her newly discovered talent to save her loved ones – and New York City – from total destruction.

Grab your cape, and be the first to see this brand new musical

Enjoy the show,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brinn Hill". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Brinn" and "Hill" being capitalized and prominent.

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SYNOPSIS



The glee club sings “Everybody Wants To Be A Superhero”. We shift to New York City under Grand Central Station. The Queen of the Night has captured Layla and Ben Song! Emily is distressed to see her best friend and dad held captive. Emily asks The Queen of the Night what she wants, and The Queen threatens to take Emily’s voice. The action freezes, and Emily tells us about herself: she’s 12 years old, she loves to sing, and she never thought she’d spend 7th grade battling demons, monsters and beings from another dimension. It all started on her birthday.

Emily is in her room taking a virtual voice lesson from Teresa Arioso. Emily is singing very quietly, and Teresa is encouraging her to sing louder. Emily is reluctant; she doesn’t want her dad to hear. As Teresa continues to encourage her, Emily sings loudly, and the power goes out in her apartment! Emily’s dad, Ben Song, comes into her room, dressed as a birthday dinosaur, as Emily hides her sheet music. She doesn’t hide it very well though, because Ben sees it and asks Emily about it. She says it’s for math class, and Ben reminds her that “music is just a distraction” and “there is no place for music in our home” and that “music is just...” Emily finishes his sentence with “a waste of time” but Ben finishes with “dangerous”. Emily wonders how music could be dangerous. Ben gives Emily her birthday gift, a basketball. Emily has told him that she joined the basketball team.

Emily sings “Play Pretend” as she heads to school. She meets her best friend, Layla. Layla

asks Emily how her voice lessons, which she gifted Emily for her birthday, are going. The girls talk about their friendship, and Emily tells Layla that her dad thinks she joined the basketball team, not the glee club. Emily tells Layla about the strange power outage when she was singing the day before. Layla says that maybe Emily has superpowers. Emily thinks she’s joking, but Layla asks her to try to heal the cut on her hand. Emily tries, but nothing happens. She notices Celeste watching her.

At glee club rehearsal the kids sing “Give My Regards to Broadway”. The students express that they don’t really like the song. They want something cooler and more modern. Emily shares that the song is beige, and needs more greens and blues. Layla suggests that they try an original song, and Emily sings “Music Is In Everything Excerpt”. Their teacher decides that Emily’s song is perfect for their field trip to the United Nations building, where they will sing for the President of the United States, and reminds the students to have their parents sign their permission slips.

Emily and Layla walk home, talking about their upcoming concert. Layla suggests they take a new shortcut she found, and leads Emily into an alleyway full of trash. Suddenly out of the trash, a trash monster appears! The monster says, “Your music magic is mine” and attacks Layla! Emily screams, and this freezes the monster. The monster breaks free and attacks again. Celeste appears with an electric guitar. She plays the instrument, which causes the trash monster to explode! Emily asks Celeste

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who she is, and Celeste reveals that she is Emily's grandmother. Emily thought she moved to Florida! Celeste says it's because of the Overture; the time when music mages turn 12 and their powers begin to manifest. Emily has so much to ask Celeste. Layla heads home, and Celeste leads Emily to her workshop.

The workshop is Celeste's music instrument repair shop, and it's full of all kinds of instruments! Celeste tells Emily all about music mages; how they have synesthesia, and experience music and sound as different senses, such as taste or color. They talk about Emily's mom, who was also a music mage, and was fighting the forces of Dissonance. Emily learns that even as a music mage she's special because she doesn't need an instrument to focus her power; she uses her voice. Celeste tells Emily that to protect her from the forces of Dissonance she's going to disguise herself and go into hiding, but Emily protests. She sings "Train Me". Celeste says that it's dangerous to be a music mage, and reveals that Emily's mom died fighting The Queen of the Night, not in a car accident like Ben told her. Emily finally convinces Celeste to train her!

The next day at school Emily tells Layla that she's a music mage, and that Celeste agreed to train her. After school at the workshop Celeste has Emily singing scales and practicing her magic. Celeste sings "Better Than Before", and we see her training Emily over the course of a few weeks. Celeste gives Emily a music mage uniform. Emily asks about The Queen of the Night, and how her mom died, and

Celeste uses an echo box to tell her the story of different dimensions and portals, love and magic, mothers and daughters, and a terrible battle. The story reveals that The Queen of the Night could be in New York City! Celeste gets a text for a mission, and reluctantly agrees that Emily can come with her. That evening at home Ben and Emily talk, and Emily hides her music from her dad.

The next day Emily and Celeste are on their mission in the sewers looking for Ammits that were attacking construction workers. Celeste is telling Emily that music mages are more powerful when they work together, just like how a band or orchestra is stronger than a soloist, when she gets pulled under the water! An Ammit, a crocodile looking creature appears, and Emily uses her powers to save Celeste. Emily gets ready to destroy the Ammit, but a baby Ammit appears and begs Emily to save her mommy. The Ammits explain why they were attacking the construction workers; the construction workers were invading their home. Emily and Celeste let the Ammits go, and Emily learns that not all supernatural creatures are bad.

The next morning Emily asks Ben to sign her permission slip for the glee club concert at the UN Building, but she lies to him and tells him it's for a basketball field trip. Ben reveals that he knows Emily has been lying to him about glee club, and Emily reveals that she knows she is a music mage. Emily yells at her dad, telling him that sometimes she wishes he had died instead of her mom. She sneaks out of

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her room down the fire escape. Ben comes to apologize, and explains that he just wanted to keep her safe. He realizes Emily is gone, and gets kidnapped by The Queen of the Night's ladies in waiting!

Emily is at the workshop, trying to convince Celeste to sign her permission slip, when she gets a video call from Layla. She answers, but it's not Layla, it's The Queen of the Night. She has kidnapped Layla and Ben! The Queen tells Emily that if she wants to save her dad and best friend she must come alone. Emily leaves, despite Celeste's warnings that The Queen is too powerful for her to defeat on her own.

Emily sings "On My Way" as she travels to save Ben and Layla, meeting various monsters on her way. Emily defeats the monsters easily before encountering The Queen of the Night. She easily defeats The Queen too, and sings the Song of Release to free Ben and Layla. Layla reveals that she is the real Queen of the Night! When she was defeated she was banished into the body of a baby. Layla/The Queen of the Night tells Emily that she needs her help to return home and save her daughter, and that she plans on borrowing the United States army to help her. Emily tells her she won't help, and risk hurting thousands of people. Layla shoots shadow arrows at Emily, but Ben blocks her from getting hurt as Layla disappears. Through his pain, Ben apologizes to Emily and tells her that he is proud of her before he passes out. Celeste appears with other music mages in tow. Emily explains what happened, and Celeste and the other mages

stay to help Ben, while Emily heads off to face Layla/The Queen of the Night alone.

Layla has used her magic to gain control of the army, and is getting ready to open portals to her world when Emily arrives. Emily and Layla battle; Emily with her voice, and Layla with her magic flute. Layla wins, but before she can defeat her, Ben, Celeste, and the other mages arrive! The mages work together to perform the Song of Binding on Layla. The mages argue about what they should do to Layla, but Emily says they should send her home. Emily explains that Layla is just misunderstood, and the mages finally agree. The mages work together to open a portal and send Layla home, and she thanks Emily.

We see the glee club getting ready to perform at Carnegie Hall. Emily addresses the audience, telling them about the aftermath of the battle with The Queen of the Night, and the glee club sings "Music is in Everything". The ensemble sings "Curtain Call/ Everybody Wants to Be a Superhero Reprise". The end.

CONTENT ADVISORY



Best for independent readers!

*Every child is different and may or may not be ready for certain elements of each production.
Read more about this show's age recommendation below.*

Audiences will be captivated by the music, and magic, family, and friendship.

The performance is expected to run approximately 75 minutes including a brief intermission – very young audiences may have difficulty staying connected for the full length of the show.

The show explores relationships between family members and friends; audiences may feel anxious as Emily experiences these difficult situations, but will learn how to empathize and understand others along the way.

There will be flashing lights, comic book style fighting, magic, monsters, and loud music and sounds that may be overwhelming for those with sensory sensitivities. We offer sensory friendly performances and sensory kits for patrons who may need them.

PRE-SHOW QUESTIONS



1. EMILY SONG AND THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT is a world premiere play, part of the TYA BIPOC Superhero Project. This means that First Stage is the first theater to ever perform this play! What do you think is special about a world premiere play? What challenges do you think come from performing a play for the very first time?
2. Emily loves to sing, but her dad has banned music. Why do you think her dad did this? Is there something you love to do as much as Emily loves to sing? How would you feel if you weren't allowed to do it?
3. Music mages usually work in groups, because the sound of an orchestra or band is stronger than a soloist. What are other activities that are better in a group? If you were a music mage, who would you want to be on your team?

COLORS IN MUSIC

AN ART ACTIVITY

Emily has synesthesia, and Grandma Celeste shares that most music mages do. Synesthesia is a phenomenon that causes sensory crossovers, such as tasting colors or feeling sounds. Some people describe it as having “wires crossed” in their brain because it activates two or more senses when there’s only a reason for one sense to activate.* Well known musicians who share Emily’s gift of synesthesia include Beyoncé, Billie Eilish, and Olivia Rodrigo. Emily sees sound as colors. In this activity, you can explore the colors you see in sound.

DIRECTIONS

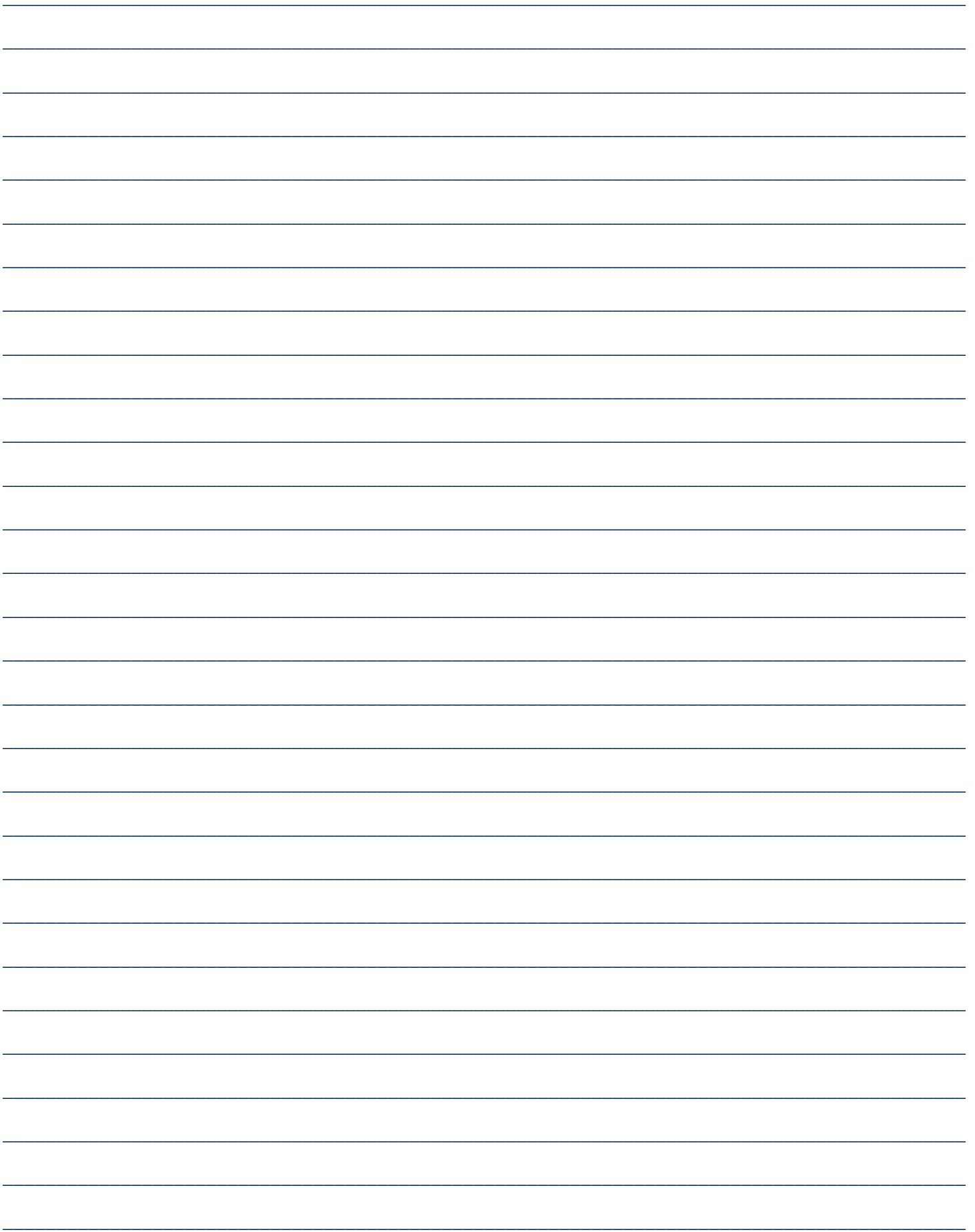
1. Choose a song. This can be a song from your favorite musician, from your favorite musical, or even a song from Emily Song and the Queen of the Night.
2. Close your eyes and listen to the song. What feeling do you have when you listen to it? What do you see? What colors? What shapes? What lines? What images?
3. Gather your favorite art supplies and create! How does your art creation represent the song you listened to?
4. To extend the activity you can ask a friend, teacher, or family member to look at your art and guess what song it represents. Invite a friend or family member to create their own art piece of the same song. Explore different genres of songs. What differences do you see in your art between the genres?

EXAMPLE: *Ms. Brinn sees stars and swirls in red, blue and brown when she listens to “Give My Regards to Broadway.”*



This is a story about the time I...

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper or a document template. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.



THE MATH IN MUSIC

A MATH ACTIVITY

Adapted from <https://ccplonline.org/blogs/childrens/stem-club-musical-fractions/>

When Emily's dad finds her sheet music, she lies to him and tells him the music is for math class. Her dad is skeptical, but it could be true. Math is an important part of music; it helps to organize music!

4/4 time, also known as common time, is the most common time signature in Western music.

Types of notes in 4/4 time:

- **Whole Note:** this note lasts an entire measure or 4 beats.
- **Half Note:** this note lasts half of a measure or 2 beats.
- **Quarter Note:** this note lasts one quarter of a measure or 1 beat.
- **Eighth Note:** this note lasts one eighth of a measure or $\frac{1}{2}$ beat.



You can think of one measure like a pizza. Follow the directions on the next page to create your own pizza, and explore different ways that musicians put notes together within a measure.

MATERIALS

- 4 paper plates
- Scissors
- Markers/crayons/colored pencils
- A black marker or sharpie

Special thanks to First Stage student Sam for creating the example for this project!

THE MATH IN MUSIC

A MATH ACTIVITY

DIRECTIONS

1. Gather your supplies and color each paper plate to look like your favorite kind of pizza.



2. On one of your pizzas write "whole note". Draw a whole note. Write "4 beats".



3. Cut your second pizza in half. On each piece write "half note". Draw a half note. Write "2 beats".

THE MATH IN MUSIC

A MATH ACTIVITY



4. Cut your third pizza into four equal pieces. On each piece write "quarter note." Draw a quarter note. Write "1 beat".
5. Cut your fourth pizza into eight equal pieces. On each piece write "eighth note." Draw an eighth note. Write "1/2 beat".



6. You can now mix and match each pizza to explore how musicians put these different notes together to create music.
7. You can explore how these different combinations sound by clapping your hands for each beat. For example, a half note, and four quarter notes would sound like ta ti ti.

A SUPER PLAYLIST FOR A SUPERHERO

A TECHNICAL THEATER ACTIVITY



Emily Song loves to sing, but her dad has banned music from their house. She discovers that she is a music mage, and that she can use music to harness her power. We all can't be music mages like Emily, but music and sound design can help us understand the mood in a given moment and helps us understand the story on a deeper level than what the text provides. In the theater, it is someone's job to decide what songs and sound effects are used—they are the Sound Designer.

For this activity, you get to be the sound designer for a production of Emily Song and the Queen of the Night. Using the following form, fill in each line with the name of a song that you would use to help tell the story of that moment, of the setting, and of the characters. Feel free to use music you enjoy listening to OR do research to find the song that perfectly matches what you think of each item on the list.

A song that describes the...

Beginning of the play: _____

Rising action of the play: _____

Climax of the play: _____

Falling action of the play: _____

Resolution of the play: _____

A song that feels like the setting of the play: _____

The theme song for...

Emily and Layla's friendship: _____

Emily training with her grandmother Celeste: _____

Emily fighting magical monsters: _____

Emily hiding her singing from her dad: _____

The Queen of the Night's power: _____

The Glee Club singing: _____

Grandma Celeste telling the story of Edhiva: _____

POST SHOW QUESTIONS



1. Emily discovers that she is a music mage. If you were a mage, what kind would you be? What would your powers be? How would your powers work?
2. Emily and her grandma have a special relationship. Grandma is training Emily to be a music mage! Do you have a special relationship with your grandparents, or with older people in your life? What kinds of things do you do together? Why is it important to learn from those older than us?
3. Throughout the play Emily encountered many different monsters and mythical creatures. Which creature did you like the best? Which creature would you like to battle? How would you use your mage powers to defeat the creature?
4. At the end of the play Emily decides to help The Queen of the Night Return home instead of trapping her or turning her into dust. Why did Emily make this choice? What would you have done if you were in Emily's situation?

WHO SAID IT?

1. Ok then come with me! I could be your side-mage?
2. Great! Forte! Alien baby! Go!
3. Please don't hurt my mommy!
4. And who is this, Queen of the Night?
5. This is New York City. Random people on the subway can sing.
6. Then eat my power chords!
7. Excuse miss, you really can't be singing here. If you want to busk, you need to apply for a permit.
8. Sorry! I had to get that trash monster gunk off me.
9. Emily Song! Welcome to your personal nightmare!

RECOMMENDED READING

PICTURE BOOKS



FOR EARLY READERS



FOR MIDDLE GRADE READERS

