

## Teacher's Guide to Student Worksheet 4-Compose a Ballad

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's name: \_\_\_\_\_

In this activity, you and a partner will write a simple ballad about Stephen Foster's life and/or the election of 1856.

What is a ballad?

***a song with lyrics that tell a story; it usually has stanzas of four lines with a rhyme on the second and fourth lines***

What are some ballads written by Stephen Foster?

***"Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair"***  
***"Oh! Susanna"***

Here is an example of a simple ballad about Stephen Foster. Sing it to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

Stephen Foster was a man  
Who knew how to write songs well,  
He was a professional  
since he composed songs to sell.

Now it is your turn!

1. Pick a simple song that is familiar to both you and your partner. If you know any tunes by Stephen Foster, such as "Camptown Races" or "Oh! Susanna," use those.
2. On the back of this page, write two stanzas to the song. Include a total of at least four facts about Stephen Foster's life and/or the election of 1856.
  - Use the handouts from the previous days' lessons if you need help remembering facts.
  - If you need help thinking of rhyming words for the end of your stanzas, use a rhyming dictionary.
3. Rehearse singing your song with your partner. You will perform it at the end of the period!