



Mining Music for a Multilevel Class

TESOL 2017

Sean Sebastian Gomez

Peninsula College ESL

sgomez@pencol.edu

Today's presentation

Take
song
lyrics

IF WE ARE WISE
WE KNOW THAT THERE'S
ALWAYS TOMORROW
LEAN ON ME
WHEN YOU'RE NOT STRONG
AND I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND
I'LL HELP YOU CARRY ON
FOR IT WON'T BE LONG
TILL I'M GONNA NEED
SOMEBODY TO LEAN ON

And make 3
leveled cloze
activities

Level 1

easy

Listen On Audio
Lyrics: [Listen](#) | [Download](#)

Carry on, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

Read it, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

You just call on me when you need a hand
I'll have things you need to borrow
That you won't let show

If there's a hand you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'll have your back
If you need a friend
Call me if you need a friend

Level 2

medium

Listen On Audio
Lyrics: [Listen](#) | [Download](#)

Carry on, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

Read it, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

You just call on me when you need a hand
I'll have things you need to borrow
That you won't let show

If there's a hand you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'll have your back
If you need a friend
Call me if you need a friend

Level 3

difficult

Listen On Audio
Lyrics: [Listen](#) | [Download](#)

Carry on, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

Read it, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

You just call on me when you need a hand
I'll have things you need to borrow
That you won't let show

If there's a hand you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'll have your back
If you need a friend
Call me if you need a friend

PLUS:

- Tips for using these activities in the classroom
- Tips for finding songs
- Link to my website with prepared activities

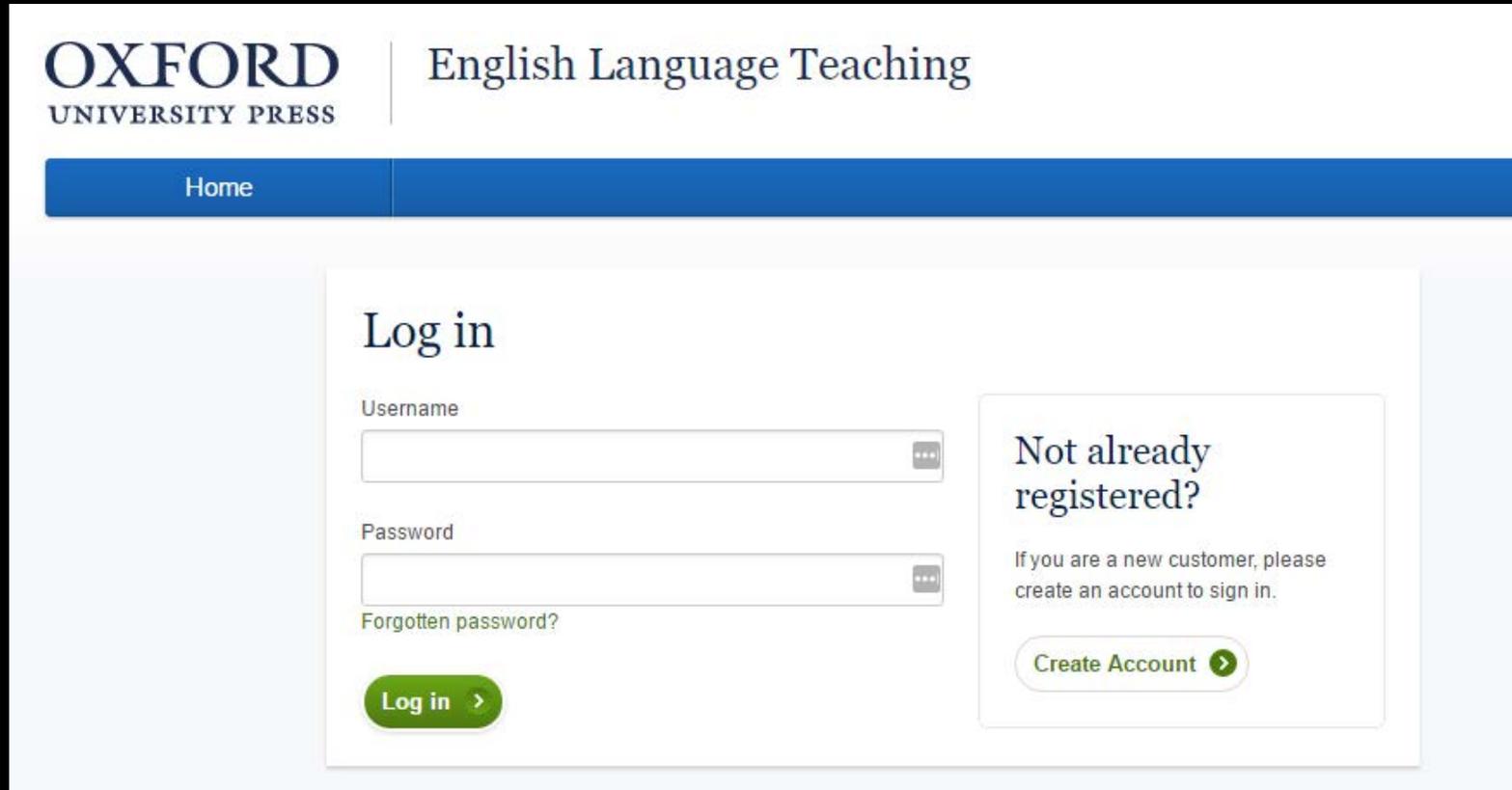


Get the lyrics ready

- Find the lyrics on the internet
- Run them through Notepad to get rid of all formatting
 - Copy and paste them into Notepad
 - Copy and paste from Notepad into Word (or your word processor)
- Edit the lyrics while listening to the song, using the version you will play in class
 - Format stanzas
 - Correct spelling, address words like *rollin'* and hyphenated words
- Save the Word doc – this is where you will put your multilevel cloze activities

Cloze Maker

It's free to register!



The screenshot shows the login page for the Oxford University Press English Language Teaching website. At the top left is the Oxford University Press logo, and to its right is the text "English Language Teaching". Below this is a blue navigation bar with the word "Home" on the left. The main content area features a "Log in" section with two input fields: "Username" and "Password", each with a small eye icon to its right. Below the password field is a link for "Forgotten password?". A green "Log in" button with a right-pointing arrow is positioned below the input fields. To the right of the login form is a box titled "Not already registered?" containing the text "If you are a new customer, please create an account to sign in." and a green "Create Account" button with a right-pointing arrow.

Go here



<https://elt.oup.com/teachers/caeresult/cloze?cc=us&sellLanguage=en&mode=hub>

Select *I want to use my own text*, then *NEXT*.

CAE Cloze Maker

How to make a cloze:

- Create a cloze with an CAE text or use your own text.
- Edit the text to suit the needs of your students, making it longer or shorter, or changing some of the words.
- Decide if you want the missing words at the top of the page.
- Decide if you want the first letter of each missing word visible.
- Either click on the words that you want to take out or just get the Cloze Maker to take them out for you.
- Print the test, or copy the text into your own word processor.

Use a CAE text

Select a lesson:

Unit 1

Then select a text:

Text 1

OR

I want to use my own text.

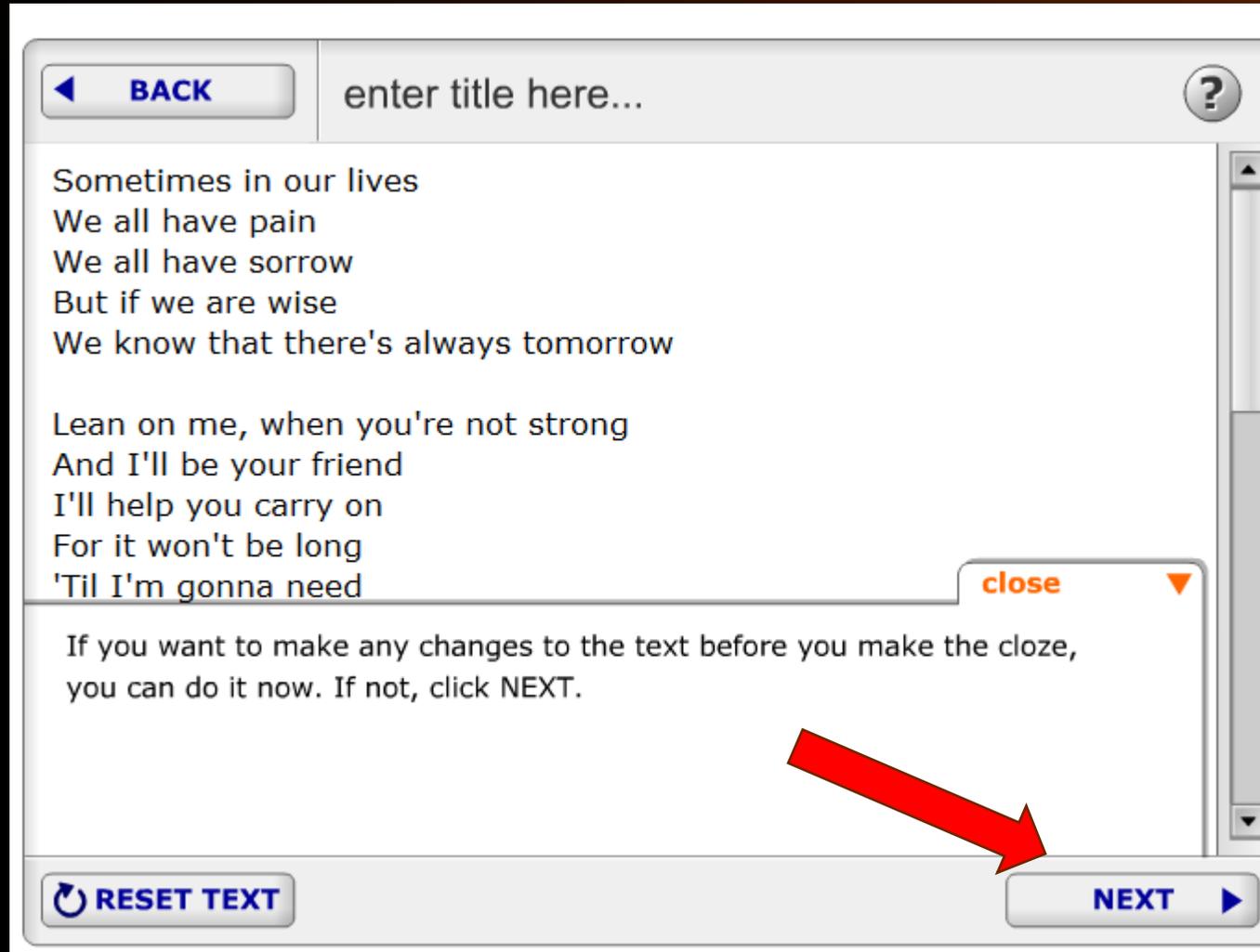
The title of my text is:

enter title here...

Then click next to begin:

NEXT

Paste the lyrics into Cloze Maker, then click **Next**



← **BACK** enter title here... ?

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need

close ▾

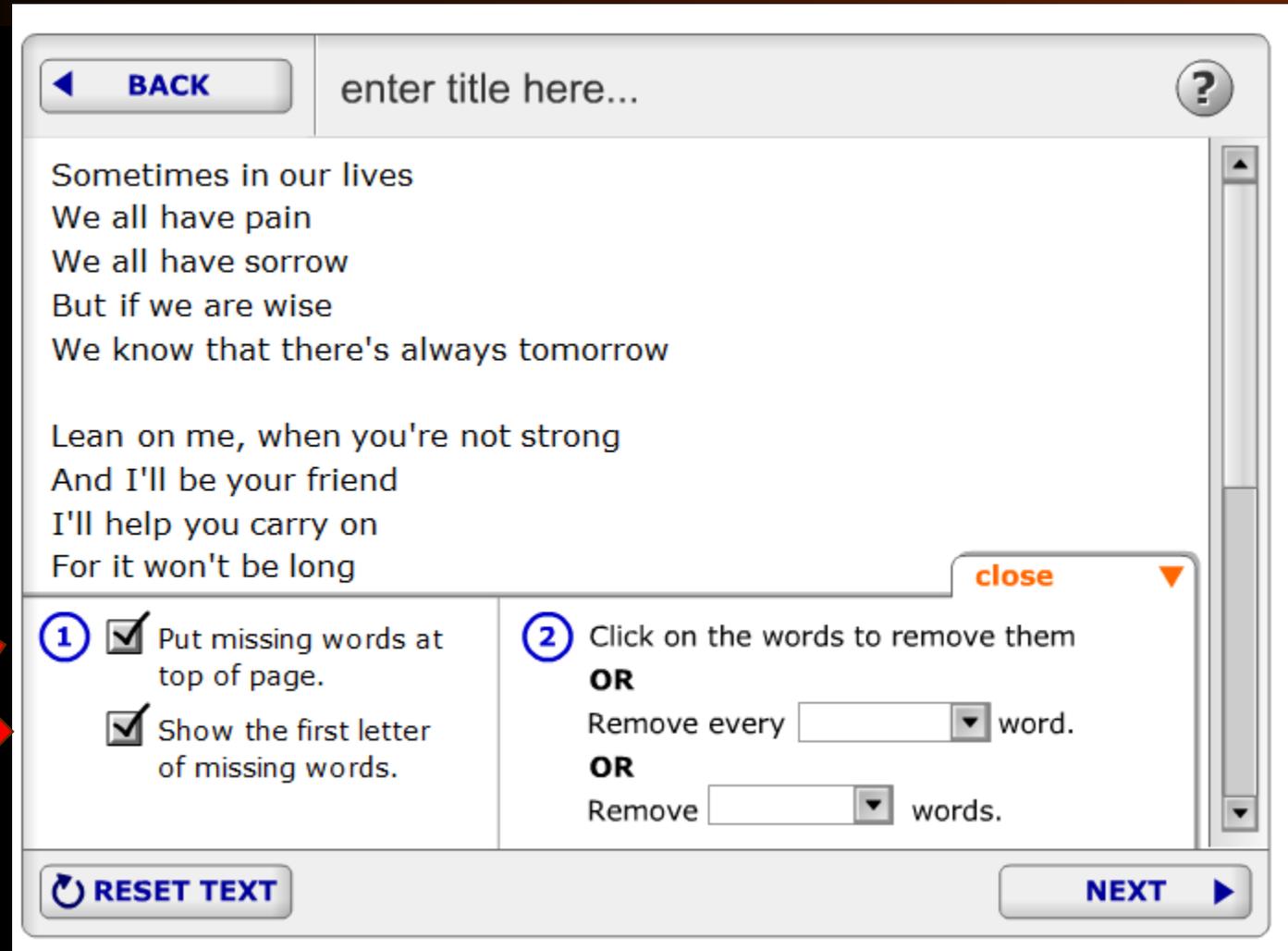
If you want to make any changes to the text before you make the cloze,
you can do it now. If not, click NEXT.

↻ **RESET TEXT** **NEXT** ▶

A red arrow points to the **NEXT** button.

Start with the lowest level cloze

Select these



BACK enter title here... ?

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long

close

1 Put missing words at top of page.
 Show the first letter of missing words.

2 Click on the words to remove them
OR
Remove every [] word.
OR
Remove [] words.

RESET TEXT NEXT

Keep it simple – for beginners

- You have several options here:
 1. You can choose your own words by clicking on them
 2. You can choose to remove every n^{th} word
 3. You can remove X number of words

ways

e not strong

close ▼

② Click on the words to remove them

OR

Remove every word.

OR

Remove words.

Remove words to make the cloze

- I choose my own words (by clicking on them)
- I listen to the song, choosing the stressed words
- 1 or 2 words per stanza is plenty
- Just remove words from the first half of the song
- Click **Next**

The screenshot shows a web application interface for creating a cloze test. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow, the text "Select Next", and a search box containing "enter title here...". Below this, the lyrics of a song are displayed in a text area. The lyrics are: "Sometimes in our [1] We all have pain We all have sorrow But if we are wise We know that there's always [2] Lean on me, when you're not strong And I'll be your friend I'll help you carry on For it won't be long". There are two input boxes, one labeled "1" and one labeled "2". Below the lyrics, there are two columns of settings. The first column has a circled "1" and two checked checkboxes: "Put missing words at top of page." and "Show the first letter of missing words." The second column has a circled "2" and two options: "Click on the words to remove them" followed by "OR" and "Remove every [dropdown] word.", and "Remove [dropdown] words." At the bottom left, there is a "RESET TEXT" button. At the bottom right, there is a "NEXT" button with a red arrow pointing to it.

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player. The video is titled "Bill Withers" and is by "CatR". The video is playing at 1:05 / 4:19. Below the video player, there is a "Want to remove ads?" notification with the text "Get ad-free videos and music with Y" and a "No thanks" button. There are also social media sharing icons at the bottom.

Paste the cloze activity into your Word file

- Click on **Select Text**, then copy the text
- Paste it into your Word file on a new page (You have the lyrics on one page)

← **BACK** enter title here...

understand carry fill you're need lean call ha
tomorrow problem swallow road brother sorrow

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have s_____ (1)
But if we are wise
We know that there's always t_____ (2)

close

Print the text or select the text and paste it into a word processor.
You can then save it and use it later.
To copy the selected text, right click and choose COPY, or use CTRL C.
On an Apple Macintosh, use CTRL click, or use APPLE C.

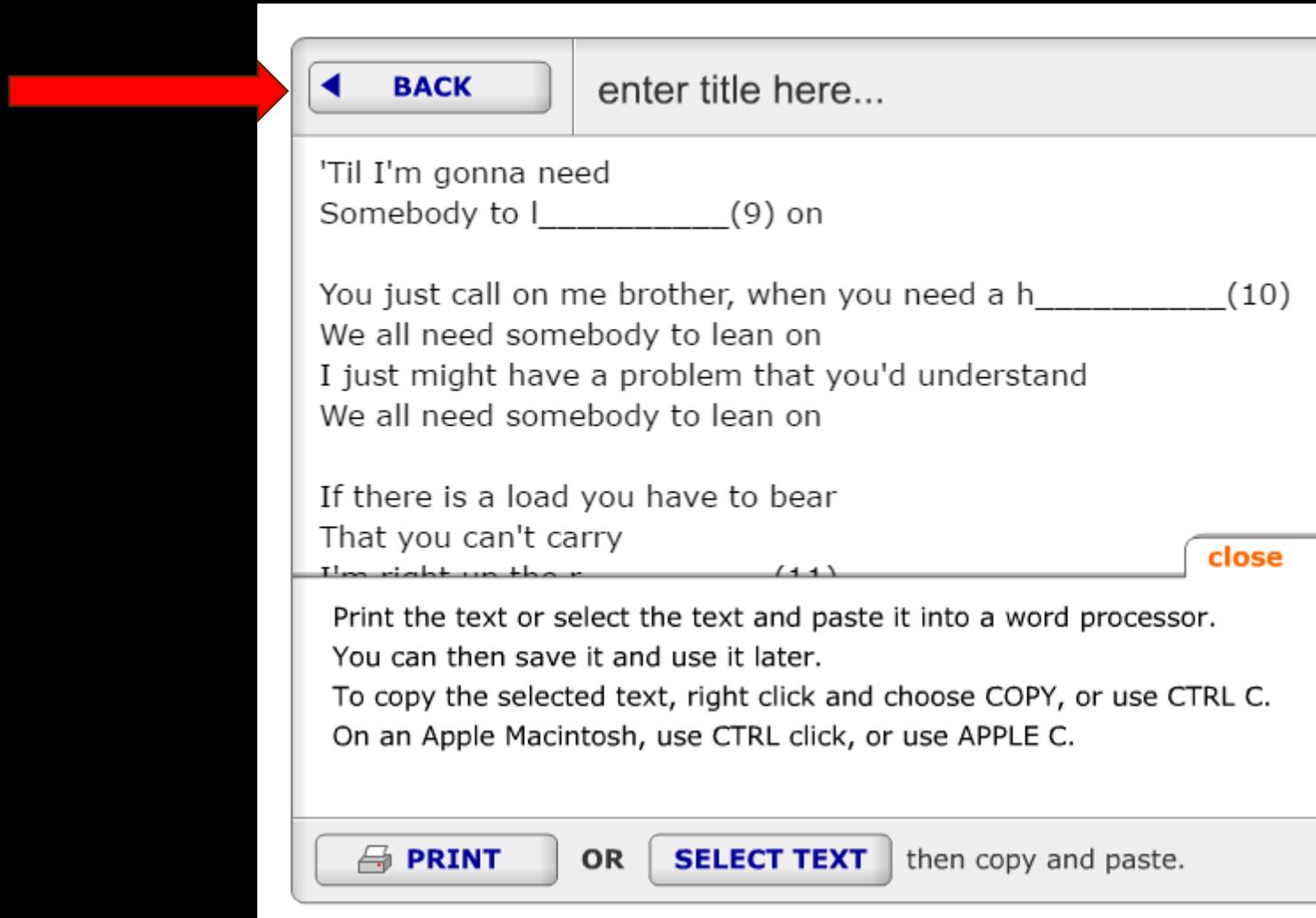
PRINT OR **SELECT TEXT** then copy and paste.

road sorrow brother carry need le
call

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have s_____ (1)
But if we are wise
We know that there's always t_____ (2)

Lean on me, when y_____ (3) not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna n_____ (4)
Somebody to lean on

In Cloze Maker, click on *Back*



The screenshot shows the Cloze Maker interface. At the top left, there is a button with a left-pointing arrow and the text "BACK". A red arrow points to this button. To the right of the "BACK" button is a text input field containing "enter title here...". Below the title field, there is a text area containing the following lyrics with blank spaces for cloze:

'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to l_____ (9) on

You just call on me brother, when you need a h_____ (10)
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'd understand
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
The right up the r_____ (11)

At the bottom right of the text area, there is a "close" button. Below the text area, there is a section with instructions:

Print the text or select the text and paste it into a word processor.
You can then save it and use it later.
To copy the selected text, right click and choose COPY, or use CTRL C.
On an Apple Macintosh, use CTRL click, or use APPLE C.

At the bottom of the interface, there are two buttons: "PRINT" (with a printer icon) and "SELECT TEXT", followed by the text "then copy and paste." The word "OR" is placed between the two buttons.

Make the mid-level cloze

Delete more words

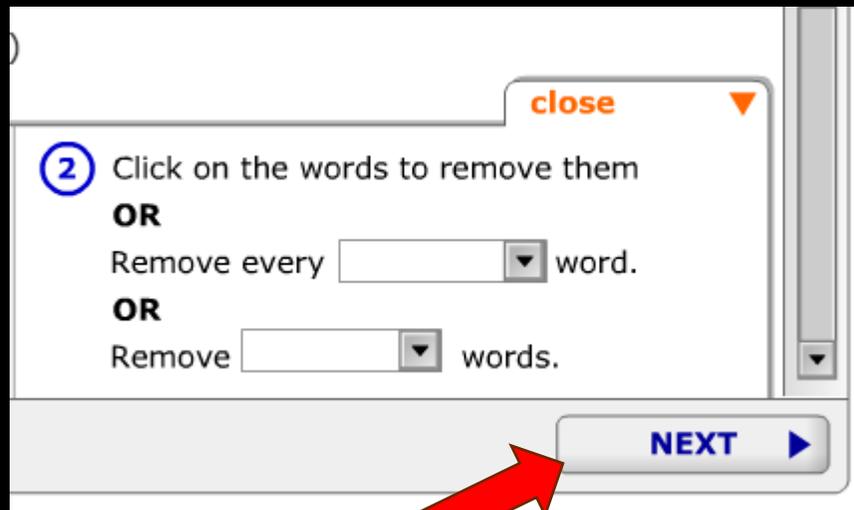
- Here I deleted words from the second half of the song.
- This double the missing word count.
- I kept the **missing words** and **show the first letter**.

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the
I'll share your load
If you just me
Call me (if you need a friend)

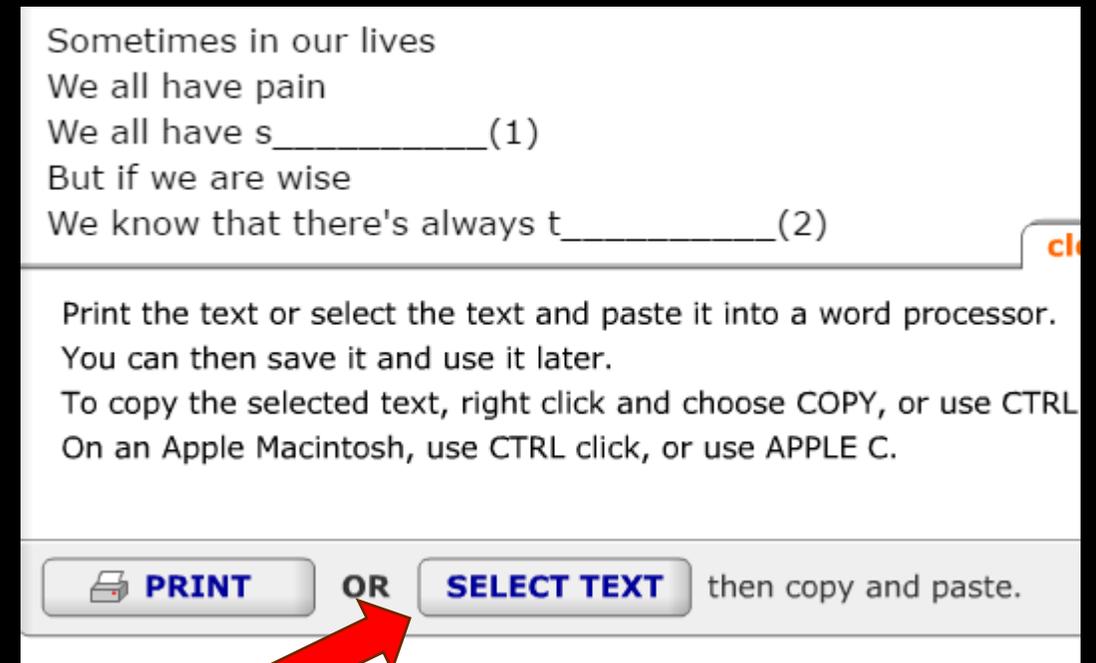
- ① Put missing words at top of page.
- Show the first letter of missing words.

- ② Cli
OF
Re
OF
Re

Click *Next* and then *Select Text, copy and paste.*



A screenshot of a dialog box with a 'close' button in the top right corner. The main text reads: '2 Click on the words to remove them OR Remove every [dropdown] word. OR Remove [dropdown] words.' At the bottom right, there is a blue 'NEXT' button with a right-pointing arrow. A red arrow points to this button.



A screenshot of a text area containing the following text: 'Sometimes in our lives We all have pain We all have s_____ (1) But if we are wise We know that there's always t_____ (2)'. Below the text, there is a section with instructions: 'Print the text or select the text and paste it into a word processor. You can then save it and use it later. To copy the selected text, right click and choose COPY, or use CTRL On an Apple Macintosh, use CTRL click, or use APPLE C.' At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'PRINT' (with a printer icon) and 'SELECT TEXT', separated by the word 'OR'. A red arrow points to the 'SELECT TEXT' button.

Paste into your Word file

- Format the document so each activity fits on one page (change margins and font size)
- Now you have two pages of activities – one easy and one medium – plus one page of lyrics
- The low level has 8 missing words, while the medium level has 14

~~You're~~ need tomorrow sorrow brother fill understand swallow

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have s _____(1)
But if we are wise
We know that there's always t _____(2)

Lean on me, when y _____(3) not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
~~I~~ I'm ~~gonna~~ n _____(4)
Somebody to lean on

Please s _____(5) your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can f _____(6) those of your needs
That you won't let show

You just call on me b _____(7), when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'd u _____(8)
We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
~~I~~ I'm ~~gonna~~ need
Somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'd understand
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
If you just call me
Call me (if you need a friend)

low

band carry road problem need swallow sorrow understand lean fill brother
you're tomorrow call

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have s _____(1)
But if we are wise
We know that there's always t _____(2)

Lean on me, when y _____(3) not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
~~I~~ I'm ~~gonna~~ n _____(4)
Somebody to lean on

Please s _____(5) your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can f _____(6) those of your needs
That you won't let show

You just call on me b _____(7), when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'd u _____(8)
We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you c _____(9) on
For it won't be long
~~I~~ I'm ~~gonna~~ need
Somebody to l _____(10) on

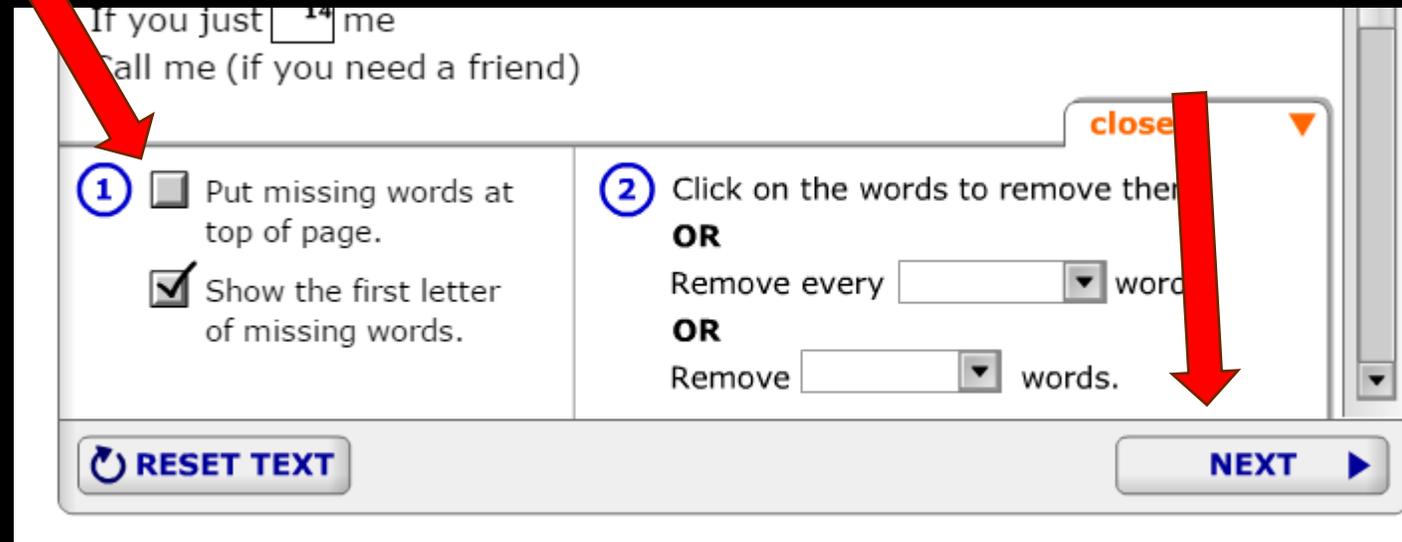
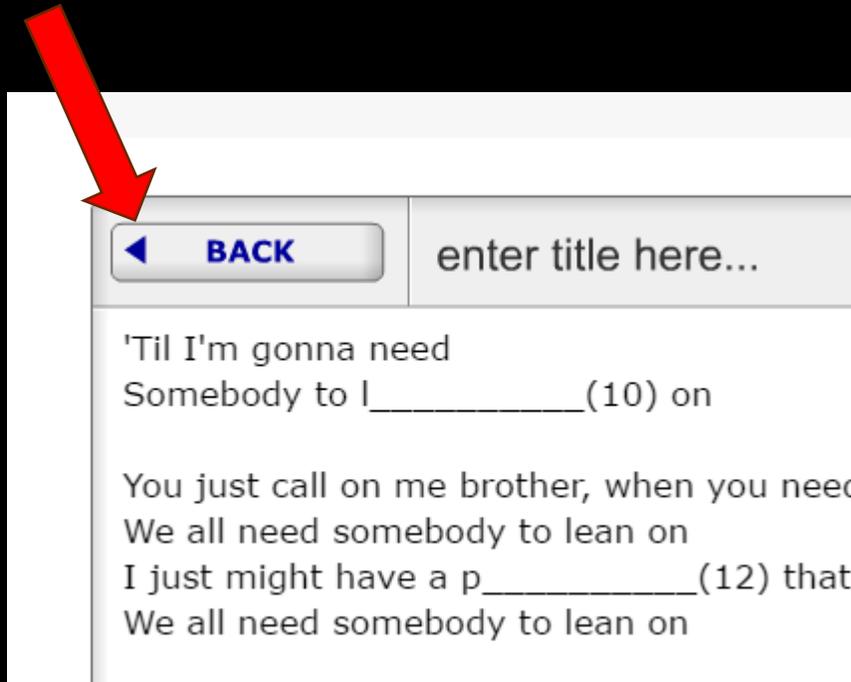
You just call on me brother, when you need a h _____(11)
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a p _____(12) that you'd understand
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the r _____(13)
I'll share your load
If you just c _____(14) me
Call me (if you need a friend)

medium

Make the high-level cloze activity

1. Click on **Back**
2. Uncheck the **Put missing words at top of page** box
3. Click **NEXT**



Select the text, then copy and paste into the Word doc

Select the text and paste it into a word processor.
it and use it later.

ed text, right click and choose COPY, or use CTRL C.
tosh, use CTRL click, or use APPLE C.

OR **SELECT TEXT** then copy and paste.



Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have s_____(1)
But if we are wise
We know that there's always t_____(2)

Lean on me, when y_____(3) not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna n_____(4)
Somebody to lean on

Please s_____(5) your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can f_____(6) those of your needs
That you won't let show

You just call on me b_____(7), when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'd u_____(8)
We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you c_____(9) on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to l_____(10) on

You just call on me brother, when you need a h_____(11)
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a p_____(12) that you'd understand
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the r_____(13)
I'll share your load
If you just c_____(14) me
Call me (if you need a friend)

Now you have a high-level cloze with

- 14 missing words
- the first letter given
- no word clues at the top of the page

Final formatting of Word document

- You've got 3 different leveled activities on 3 pages, plus a page of lyrics.
- Add the song title and author to the header (so it shows on every page)
- Mark the 3 different leveled activities by difficulty
 - Low, medium, high,
 - A, B, C
 - Beginner, intermediate, advanced

Lean On Me
by Bill Withers

Header

you're need tomorrow sorrow brother fill
understand swallow

Level A

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have s _____ (1)
But if we are wise
We know that there's always t _____ (2)



Tips for classroom use

- Print double-sided and put the lyrics on the back so students can self-correct
- Print a couple extra (If I have 5 students at each level, I'll print 7 copies at each level.)
 - This allows students to move up or down in difficulty
 - Students can choose a harder activity to do at home
- Give the students some background on the artist: read a short bio, show some pictures, talk about the era, ask them if they have heard the song.
- Play the song once (if possible, on Youtube on a projector) and students just listen
- Put the activities on a table and let the students choose the level of difficulty
- All-class activity
 - Play the song several times, going around to check on students progress
 - Repeat until most students have finished
 - If certain words are hard for all students, replay that section several times
- Independent activity - have students use PCs or their devices to complete the cloze
- Sing the song together! Especially the easy parts, like the chorus.
- Have the song playing on other days when students are coming into class, or on breaks.
- Add text-dependent and critical thinking questions for the middle and high levels.



Tips for finding songs

- Find song that tells a story
- Not too complex (targeting lower levels)
- Fairly clear lyrics
- Engaging music
- Not offensive to anyone.
- ESL Lounge: A collection of song lyrics and ideas for using them in the classroom
- My website: PDFs of activities + links to Youtube songs



[California Dreaming](#), by The Mamas and the Papas- [Youtube video](#)

[Candle in the Wind](#), by Elton John - [Youtube video](#)