

An open call from GriffinEd for submissions of songs:

## **READ ME,**

a musical reading list for young readers  
led by Maya Bohnhoff, Jeff Bohnhoff, and Tim Griffin  
contact [ReadMe@GriffinEd.org](mailto:ReadMe@GriffinEd.org)

All you filkers and writers and up-late-at-nighters,  
Experienced strummers and barely-can-hummers,  
Sharpen your pencils and (maybe) your wits.

We're looking for musical misses and hits  
About favorite books; your songs literary  
Of memorable characters funny or scary;

Settings or plots from when you were a kid  
That affected you more than the boring ones did.  
*A kid-friendly musical reading list*

Is what we are striving for; that's the gist.  
Oh, and there's money. Please see below  
For details and such that you may want to know.

### Background

GriffinEd is an educational nonprofit (501c3) dedicated to raising academic achievement for young learners through fun educational music, regardless of ability to pay. Think "Schoolhouse Filk" and you've got the basic idea; we write, record, and share songs about the stuff kids need to know for school. Our main offering is a free online library of teaching songs, searchable by grade level and subject. Please check it out at [www.GriffinEd.org](http://www.GriffinEd.org), where tax-deductible donations are welcome but never required.

### Read Me: a musical reading list

In collaboration with Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff, GriffinEd is excited to add a new section to our online library, dedicated to fiction for young people. We want your songs about your favorite books for young readers, and we can pay you; not a lot, but better than a boot to the head.

Griffin Ed is also still looking for more of the nonfiction, academic-type songs we already do. For information about that, please see [GriffinEd.org](http://GriffinEd.org) -> About -> Submissions, or just email [Tim@GriffinEd.org](mailto:Tim@GriffinEd.org)

### Guidelines For Submissions

- No plot summaries please; this is *not* “Cliff’s Notes, The Musical.”
- Rather, your song should function as a “teaser” that captures a memorable event, character, or theme of a book; something like a movie trailer that will make a kid say, “I want to read that!”
- Our primary target age range for our fiction section is 8-14 years, but we will consider songs aimed at older or younger audiences.
- Original tunes are preferred; tunes in the public domain are okay. In a pinch we can take a hacksaw to that copyrighted melody and chord progression you borrowed, but only if we really, really love your song.
- Submissions of poetry will be accepted. If we wind up turning it into a song (with your permission), you will split writing credit (and payment) with the composer.
- Songs, and the books that inspire them, should be reasonably kid-friendly or at least kid-safe. As a benchmark, figure yes to Harry Potter, no to Twilight; yes to Goosebumps, no to Stephen King; Cthulu maybe, but Silence Of The Lambs is right out.
- Books old and new are welcome, but bear in mind some of the books we loved as kids may be problematic to modern sensibilities over issues such as race or gender. These are not automatic grounds for rejection, but please take such things into account.
- We will lean toward books that have not recently been made into movies or TV shows, as our main goal is to promote reading.
- We would love for all genres of fiction to be represented.
- Please send your submissions, questions, etc. to [readme@GriffinEd.org](mailto:readme@GriffinEd.org)

### Payment to Writers

GriffinEd pays royalties to our writers: US \$.10 (ten cents) per unit on anything we can copy and sell (CD’s etc.) and 10% of any online revenue we gain from using your song or poem; you will retain ownership of your work. GriffinEd does not sell much because most people get music on our web site for free; so rather than send you a tiny royalty payment each year, we will pay you an advance of **\$150 for a song or \$75 for a poem** if and when we choose your submission for the project. The money GriffinEd pays you is for the right to make the song or poem available for free on our web site; it is also an advance on any future royalties we might owe you, with the understanding that GriffinEd may never earn enough from the use of your song or poem to warrant another such payment. So please don’t plan your career around this, okay?

### Performers

In most cases, we will be making our own recording of your song with performers chosen by the musical directors of the Read Me project, Maya and Jeff Bohnhoff. They might choose the writer to perform, but please do not be hurt if they choose someone else. If you have a truly professional-quality recording of your song we might negotiate for use of your recording, but this is unlikely.

### Other Stuff

- There is no deadline. This will be an ongoing project; when we have enough songs to make an album we will probably burn a CD but we hope to keep the project going for as long as we keep getting good music and raising money to produce it.
- We love you, but please do not bombard us with scores of submissions. Send us your best work!