

# WIL'S JAMS



Wordplay with Will



**SCHOOL SHOW STUDY GUIDE**  
by Will Stroet

## biography

Will Stroet of Will's Jams is a Juno-nominated singer-songwriter, former CBC Kids TV star, educator and dad who creates multilingual music that ignites imagination and motivates movement for the young and young-at-heart. Through witty wordplay and catchy choruses, Will inspires kids to be active, healthy, creative and engaged in the world through educational music in English and French.

Will first discovered his talent for writing kids music while completing his education degree at the University of B.C. After releasing his first album in 2005 and playing hundreds of shows around Vancouver, Will knew he had found his calling. In 2009, he took a leave from teaching to pursue music full time and has never looked back. Over the years, Will has performed more than 2,000 shows at major festivals, schools and theatres across Canada and in China. He has garnered national recognition for his 11 albums in English and French including a 2017 JUNO nomination for his latest album, "i," seven WCMA nominations, three from the CFMA and two from the Sirius XM Indies. In 2015, UBC's Faculty of Education honoured Will in their top 100 Alumni awards..



**Wordplay with Will** is a multilingual show in English and French (with some Mandarin and sign language). The show features Will's

most popular educational songs for students from all of his nationally-acclaimed albums. Over the past decade touring schools, Will has developed a top-notch school show with audience participation, witty wordplay, sign language and catchy sing-along choruses. Will's original music explores the themes of literacy, imagination and creativity, and living a healthy and active lifestyle, which ties into the new integrated school curriculum. Students and teachers will be inspired to join along in the actions, singing and dancing during this interactive musical show.

## show description

## Testimonials

**“Will Stroet has great energy! You can tell he loves what he’s doing. The kids pick up on that and are keen to join in singing and doing actions. He is the best performer I have ever seen in an elementary school because the kids were so engaged.”**

—Meredith Fenton, vice-principal, West Vancouver

“It was wonderful to have a bilingual artist bring in his expertise and extensive repertoire of French songs into our school.”

—Sharon Preston, Grade 1 Teacher, Vancouver

“Our primary students thoroughly enjoyed Will’s concert. They enjoyed the lyrics and the tempo of Will’s songs. His lyrics are fun and teach safety, nutrition, or other important knowledge and skills without being preachy. His concert involved the students and got them up and moving and excited and then he calmed them down again. I would highly recommend Will Stroet’s concerts to other schools.”

—Jennifer Smith, music teacher, Toronto

“Thanks to Will for a wonderful concert experience. He was so engaging and the virtual concert itself was amazing. I heard from each teacher whose class attended that they saw their students up dancing and singing the whole time. My favourite note was from a teacher of a kindergarten student who has been struggling with remote learning and has not been engaged. The teacher said: “We have never seen him so animated and excited about a virtual experience! He is dancing!”

— Ontario teacher

## rock n roly guacamole

 [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

 [LISTEN ON SPOTIFY](#)

Holy moly, roly poly, rock n roly, guacamole

Eat it with my tacos, eat it with my chips  
Love it with my nachos, my favourite of the dips  
Well it's nice and green, you know what I mean?  
I eat it all the time, but not with ravioli  
Holy moly, roly poly, rock n roly, guacamole

Step 1 – mash the avocado

Step 2 – chop the cilantro

Step 3 – squeeze some lime

Step 4 – salt & pepper time

Step 5 – mix it up

Rock n roly, guacamole that's what up!

Holy moly, roly poly, rock n roly, guacamole

## let's all dance

 [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

Hands up in the sky  
Hands down on the ground  
Follow your hands and turn around  
Let's All Dance

*(French)*

Mets tes mains en l'air  
Mets tes mains par terre  
Tourner autour mes amis  
On va danser

*(Spanish)*

Las manos arriba  
Las manos abajo  
Giramos amigos  
Vamos a bailar

*(Mandarin in pinyin)*

ju qi shou  
shou fang xia  
zhuan yi zhuan  
Tiao qi lai ba

### activity with actions

- "Step 1, mash the avocado" → 1 hand mashes avocado in the other hand
- "Step 2, chop the cilantro" → 1 hand chops cilantro on the other hand
- "Step 3, squeeze some lime" → act out squeezing a lime
- "Step 4, salt & pepper time" → act out shaking salt and pepper with shakers
- "Step 5, mix it up" → act out stirring a spoon in a bowl
- "Rock n roll, guacamole, that's what's up!" → point your fingers up in the air

### activity with actions

- "Hands up in the sky" → *Hands up*
- "Hands down on the ground" → *Hands down*
- "Follow your hands and turn around" → *Spin around*
- "Let's All Dance" → *Clap, clap, clap and dance!*

# just imagine

 [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

 [LISTEN ON SPOTIFY](#)

*Chorus*

**G**  
Use your imagination

**C** **G**  
With a little determination  
There is no limitation  
**D**

When you use your imagination

**G**  
If you imagine it

**C**  
If you work at it

**D**  
If you never quit

**C** **G**  
Well, just imagine

**G** **C** **G**  
There was a man, imagined he could fly

**G** **D**  
He watched the birds and said, "Oh, why can't I?"

**G** **C**  
Worked hard with his brother, built a plane that could fly

**G** **D** **G**  
Well he imagined it, and he took it to the sky

When I was a little kid, I liked to sing for everyone  
I loved an audience, it was always lots of fun  
I dreamed when I'd grow up, sing for people with my guitar  
Well I imagined it, now I'm a pebble star!

*Chorus*

What do you think about, when you day dream  
Some cool ideas I bet, but impossible they may seem  
But what you imagined, you may realize  
If you work hard at it, you just might be surprised

*Chorus*

## activity: imagine your future

Lead a class discussion by asking students,  
"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Ask students to research and report on some jobs  
that might interest them. Ask students,  
"What do you think you have to learn to be able to fulfill  
this dream?"

# i wanna dance

# the real prize is a compromise

 LISTEN ON SPOTIFY

I am short — I am tall  
But we're good friends — It doesn't matter at all

Chorus A  
We don't always see eyes to eyes  
But the real prize is when we find a compromise

I am fast — I am slow  
We'll both make it — no matter how we go

Chorus A

I'm left-handed — I use my right  
But that doesn't matter — no need to fight

Chorus A

Chorus B  
We may be different, but I don't mind  
A friend like you can be hard to find  
Tell me what you like, and I just might  
See some things in a different light  
Open our ears and we just might  
Find a compromise where we can unite!

Don't listen to you — You don't listen to me  
Sounds like a problem — don't you agree

Chorus A

I write poetry — I write prose  
We can read each other's — that's what I propose

Chorus A

I play guitar — I play sitar  
But we can still jam on NPR

Chorus A

Chorus B

I am yin — I am yang  
But we can come back together — like a boomerang

Chorus A

Peanut butter jam — cheese and ham  
They're both sandwiches — check my Venn diagram

Chorus A

I like red — I like blue  
We have different taste — but I still like you

Chorus A

Chorus B

I'm from here — I'm from there  
We might be different — but I don't care

Chorus A

## activity: listening & compromise

1. Have you ever felt like someone isn't listening to what you have to say? When? How did it make you feel?
2. What does active listening look and sound like? Try to summarize what other person is saying. Ask if you can respond with your perspective. Take turns being an active listener.
3. What does a compromise look like? Each side needs to give a little to come to an acceptable outcome for both parties.

## reading revival

 WATCH THE VIDEO

 LISTEN ON SPOTIFY

*Chorus*

**G**  
I'm going to read, I'm going to read,  
**D G**  
I'm going to read, I'm going to read in the library

**C G**  
Take a look and choose a book  
**D G**

About Peter Pan or Captain Hook  
**C G D**  
He's an awful pirate, a meanie and a crook  
You can read about our friend Charlie  
And his visit to Willy Wonka's factory  
The Oompa Loompas make all kinds of crazy candy

*Chorus*

A book transports you to Hogwarts  
You can read about Harry and Voldemort  
Now quidditch is practically my favourite sport  
Asterix and Obelix  
Are super strong thanks to Getafix  
Hunting wild boar is how they get their kicks

*Chorus*

1 fish, 2 fish, red fish, blue fish  
That Dr. Seuss is very seussish  
Don't forget Horton, the Lorax and the Grinch  
That cuddly bear, Winnie the Pooh  
Along with Tigger, Kanga and Roo  
Were inspired by the author's visit to the zoo

*Chorus*

So don't be shy just sing with me  
About reading in the library  
The more you read, the more your mind is free

*Chorus*

### songwriting activity

Ask students to name their favourite books and then have them rewrite the verses of this song.

**step 1** Choose a book.

**step 2** Brainstorm words about the book (characters, themes, setting...) and keep an eye out for rhymes.

**step 3** Using the rhythm and rhyme structure of the song, have students create their own verse.

## kick it (the soccer song)

 WATCH THE VIDEO

 LISTEN ON SPOTIFY

I like to go and play soccer in the park  
Kickin' that ball all around, all day until it's dark  
If I'm not at home, you know where you can find me  
I'll be down at the pitch, oh whether rain or shine  
KICK IT!

*Chorus*

Ogie, ogie, ogie – Oi, oi, oi  
Ogie, ogie, ogie – Oi, oi, oi  
Ogie – Oi  
Ogie – Oi  
Ogie, ogie, ogie – Oi, oi, oi

Dribble the ball down the field, then try to shoot and score  
When the goalie makes a save you can kick it in from the corner

Your teammate can try to knock it in with his head  
That might be just what your team needs to go ahead  
Kick it!

*Chorus*

*Bridge (add oohs)*

Dad took me to a stadium to watch the Whitecaps play  
He held my hand while we found our seats, it was a perfect day

The game was tight right from the start, it could have gone either way

When our team scored in the 90th minute, everyone yelled... Hooray!

*Chorus*

If the ball goes out of bounds you can throw it in to your sweeper

It's the only time you can use your hands unless you're the goalkeeper

At the end of the game line up for a little trip

And shake hands with the other team to show good sportsmanship

Kick it!

*Chorus*

### activity: sportsmanship discussion

Ask students some questions:

"What sports do you play?"

"What is sportsmanship?"

"What does sportsmanship look like in different sports?"

## colour it

 WATCH THE VIDEO

 LISTEN ON SPOTIFY

**D**  
I'm done my picture

**C**  
Needs a colourful mixture

**G**  
Get out my crayons  
**A D**

I'm going to colour it!

*Repeat*

**D C G**  
Well I'm drawing because it's my favourite thing to do  
I'm drawing a picture of me with you  
But, it's not done yet, it can be much more beautiful  
It needs something more, to make it colourful  
*Chorus*

Sometimes I like to draw fruit on a plate  
It's called a still life picture, I want to make it great  
But it's not done yet, it can look much more flavourful  
It needs something more, to make it colourful  
*Chorus*

I like Picasso, I think of him when I draw my house  
and my yard  
My mom says my pictures, they look pretty avant-  
garde  
But it's not done yet, it can be much more wonderful  
It needs something more, to make it colourful  
*Chorus x 2*

### activity: song actions

- "I'm done my picture" → Hold hands up making a square with thumbs and index finger
- "Needs a colourful mixture" → Do jazz hands
- "Get out my crayons" → Motion as if you're taking crayons from the box
- "I'm going to colour it!" → Pretend to colour with a crayon

### activity: making art

Ask students:

"What do you love to draw?"

Draw and colour it while listening to the song.

## big shiny spoons

 WATCH ON YOUTUBE

 LISTEN ON SPOTIFY

After school I have time to play  
That's when my dad's working in the kitchen  
When I hear him call me, I know what he'll say  
Almost dinner time, time for me to pitch in

Chorus A

Get out those big shiny spoons, the forks and the knives  
We're going to eat together, something we've done all  
our lives  
Set out the napkins and the plates, and the cutlery  
Places for my parents, a place for you, and a place for me

Chorus B

The fork on the left, knife and spoon on the right  
Napkin under the fork, take pride in my job every night  
The plate in the middle, and a glass of water too  
I'm the best table setter-upper, every night when I have  
supper with you

Sunday my grandparents come to eat  
Mom says put some glasses out for wine  
Use our fancy dishes, and candles, what a treat  
Nana is impressed, and Grandpa says, "That's mighty  
fine."

Chorus A

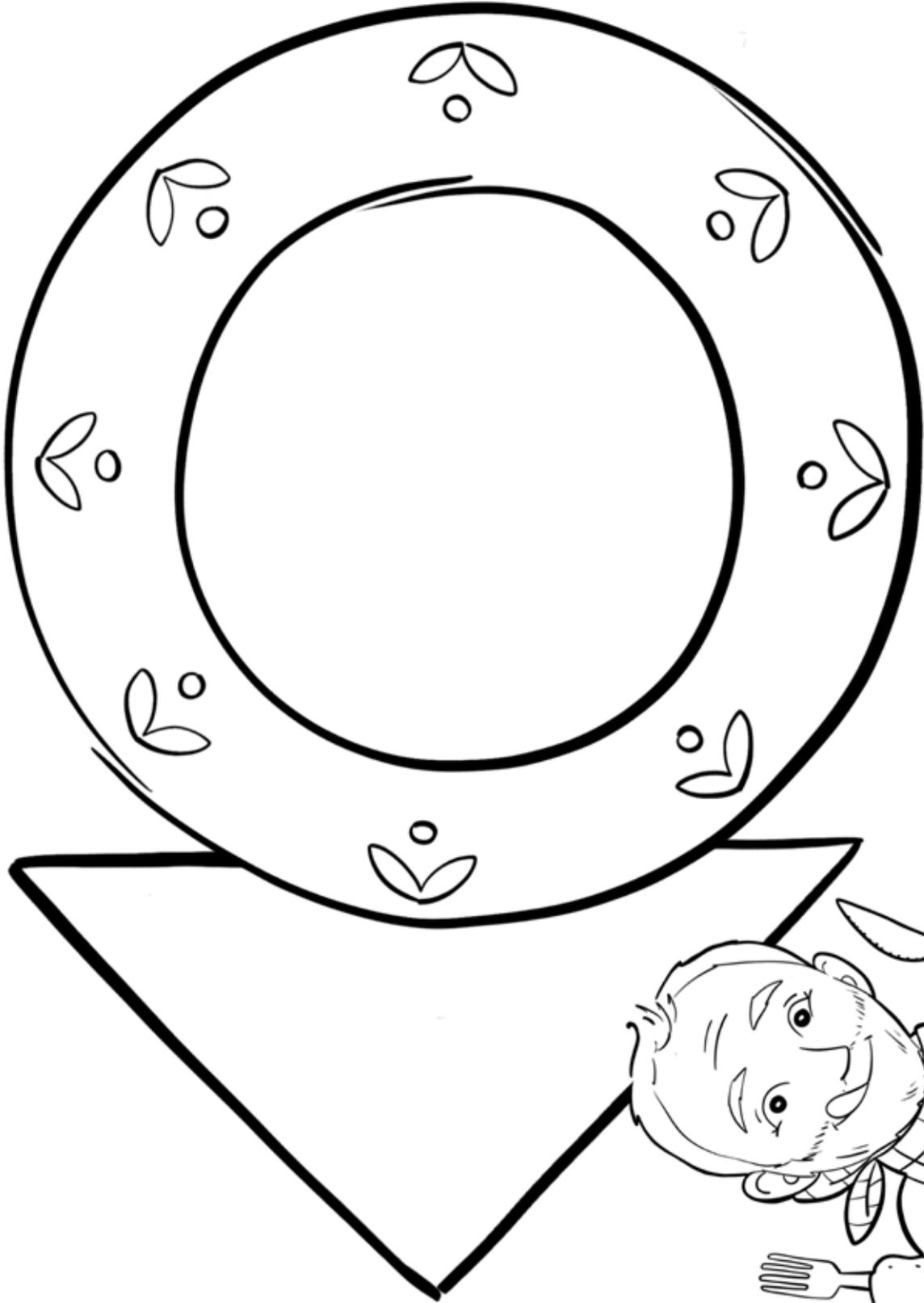
Chorus B

Chorus A

### activity: big shiny spoons drawing

On the next page, photocopy the activity sheet and have students draw their favourite meal with the proper table setting.

For more resources,  
music, videos and ideas visit:  
[www.willsjams.com](http://www.willsjams.com)



Help Will set the table for dinner  
and draw your favourite meal.