

Singing to Develop Rhythm and Linking

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APPENDIX A: Sample Lesson: “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean”

Traditional Scottish folk song

My Bonnie lies over the ocean.
My Bonnie lies over the sea.
My Bonnie lies over the ocean,
Please bring back my Bonnie to me.

Chorus:

Bring back, bring back,
Oh, bring back my Bonnie to me, to me.
Bring back, bring back,
Oh, bring back my Bonnie to me.

Last night as I lay on my pillow,
Last night as I lay on my bed,
Last night as I lay on my pillow,
I dreamed that my Bonnie was dead.

Chorus

The winds have blown over the ocean,
The winds have blown over the sea,
The winds have blown the ocean,
And brought back my Bonnie to me.

Chorus

APPENDIX B: Teaching Notes for “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean”

This method enhances English language learning in listening and speaking

Vocabulary

The word *bonny* or *bonnie* is a term of endearment for one’s beloved or baby (chiefly Scottish and Northern English). As an adjective, it means *attractive, pretty*.

Grammar

Several verb forms are used in the lyrics: present tense *lies*; imperative *bring*; past tense *lay, dreamed, was*; present perfect *have blown . . .* (and) *brought*. The word *lay* is the past tense of *lie*. *Blown*, the past participle of *blow*, and *brought*, the past participle of *bring*, are used in the present perfect in the final verse.

Rhymes

Sea, me

Bed, dead

Segmentals

Final consonants: night, ocean, bring, back, bed, dead.

Vowels: American English: \ɑ\ bonnie, \oʊ\ blown over the ocean;

British English: \ɔ\ bonnie, \oʊ\ blown over the ocean

Strong beats (selected lines)

My **Bonnie** lies **over** the **ocean** . . . the **sea**.

Please **bring** back my **Bonnie** to **me**.

Bring back, **bring** back,

Oh, **bring** back my **Bonnie** to **me**, to **me**.

Last **night** as I **lay** on my **pillow** . . . my **bed**,

I **dreamed** that my **Bonnie** was **dead**.

The **winds** have **blown** over the **ocean** . . . the **sea**

And **brought** back my **Bonnie** to **me**.

Linking

Consonant to vowel: lies over \laizoʊvə\, blown over \bloʊnoʊvə\ (American English)

Vowel to vowel: the ocean \ðiyoʊʃən\ (American English)

Recordings

Many recordings of this “My Bonnie” are available online: versions that are gentle and rhythmic or upbeat and energetic; sung by men, women, and children; accompanied by piano, orchestra, guitar, harmonica, and acapella; and MIDI files.*

*Created with a digital synthesizer, MIDI files can be downloaded to computers and other digital devices.