Teaching Cause and Effect with Songs

Cause and Effect

"When You Wish Upon a Star" is a great song to introduce your "Cause and Effect" Lesson. The song has a couple of cause-and-effect relationships :
When you wish upon a star – anything your heart desires will come to you.
If your heart is in your dream – no request is too extreme.
The song also contains personification (fate steps) and a simile (like a bolt out of the blue).

"Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh (A Letter from Camp)" by Allan Sherman and Lou Busch (1963)
Allan Sherman and Lou Busch wrote this song based on a letter full of complaints Allan received from his son while he attended Camp Champlain in Westport, New York. Allan's son experiences many misadventures due to homesickness making it a fun song that is perfect to teach cause and effect.

"It's my Party" by Lesly Gore – 1963, sung by Leslie Gore, was recorded in black and white. The video below contains the original song played in the movie *Problem Child* (1990). In the movie, Junior gets revenge for not being allowed to watch the magic show. The video is full of Junior's antics which make fantastic cause-and-effect discussion examples.

"Spinning Wheel " by Blood Sweat & Tears won three Grammys in 1970. It is a metaphor for the cycle of events we go through in life. The song begins with "What goes up, must come down." See if students can find these:
You got no money and you got no home.
Don't worry; things will work out.
By following the "straight and narrow highway" (moral integrity) you will shine.

"The Light" by Disturbed tells the story of a fireman who is injured in a fire and goes through a difficult rehabilitation process only to find happiness in the end. The message is really positive. People must go through 'dark' periods in order to finally see 'the light.' The video has a great cause-and-effect message.

"If I Had a Hammer" by Peter, Paul & Mary is an exceptional 1960s folk song. The video below, filmed at the Civil Rights March on Washington in 1963, can be used to not only discuss the cause and effect events mentioned in the song the song but also the causes and effects of the Civil Rights March.

Here are some other songs that contain cause-and-effect relationships:

"We Didn't Start the Fire" by Billy Joel (1987)

"We Didn't Start the Fire" describes various historical events and relationships between them.

"Man in the Mirror" by Michael Jackson (1988)

"Man in the Mirror" talks about making positive changes within oneself to create a better world.

"Cat's in the Cradle" by Harry Chapin (1974)

"Cat's in the Cradle" explores the cause-and-effect relationship between a father not being there for his son and the resulting strained relationship.

"Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey (1981)

"Don't Stop Believin'" is about the cause-and-effect relationship of never giving up on your dreams and persevering through tough times.

"The Times They Are A-Changin'" by Bob Dylan (1964)

"The Times They Are A-Changin'" discusses the relationship between social and political change and the need to adapt to a changing world.
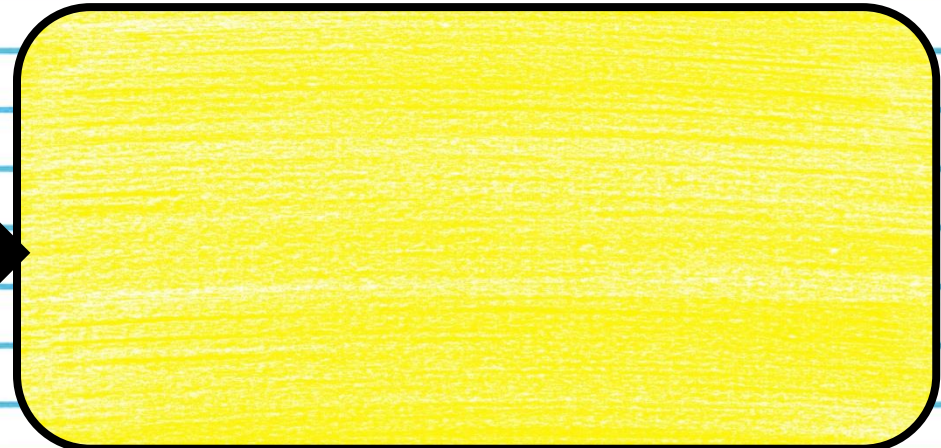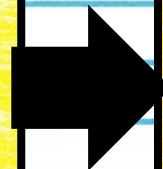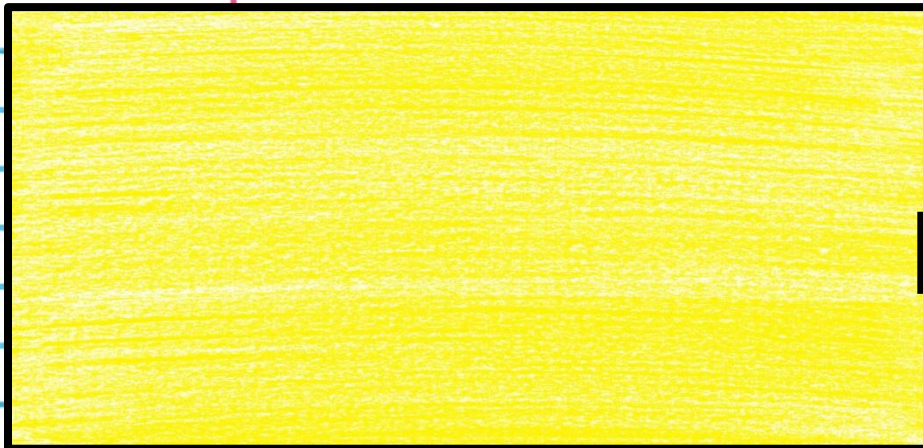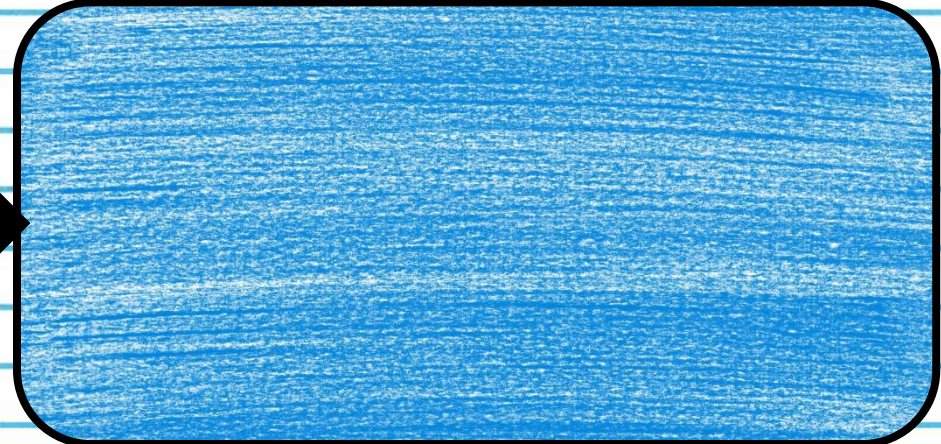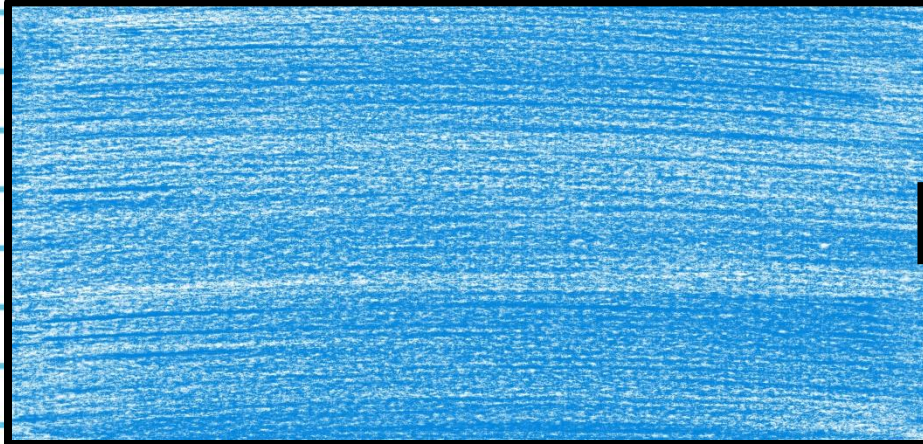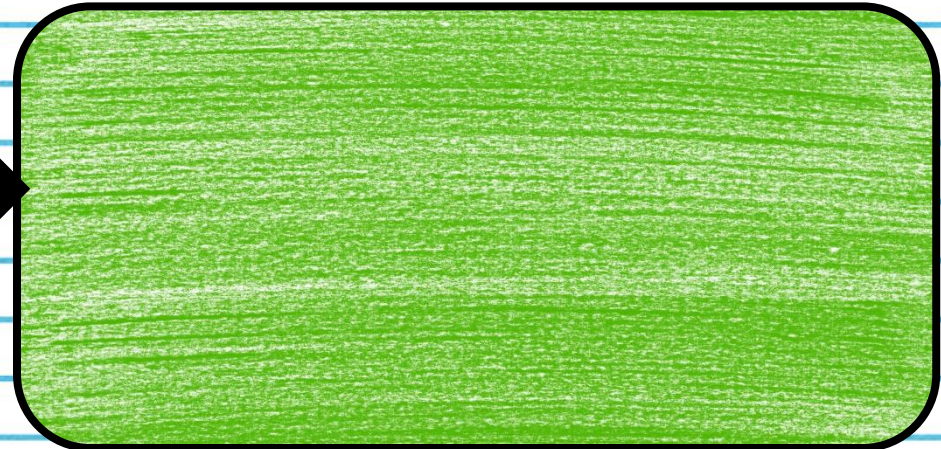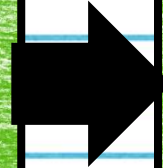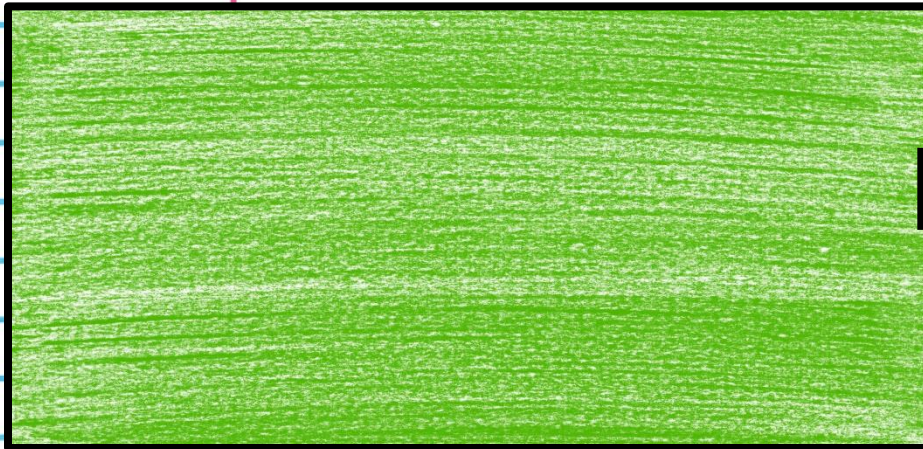
"Fight Song" by Rachel Platten (2015)

"Fight Song" describes the relationship between standing up for oneself and persevering through challenges to achieve one's goals.
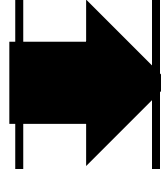
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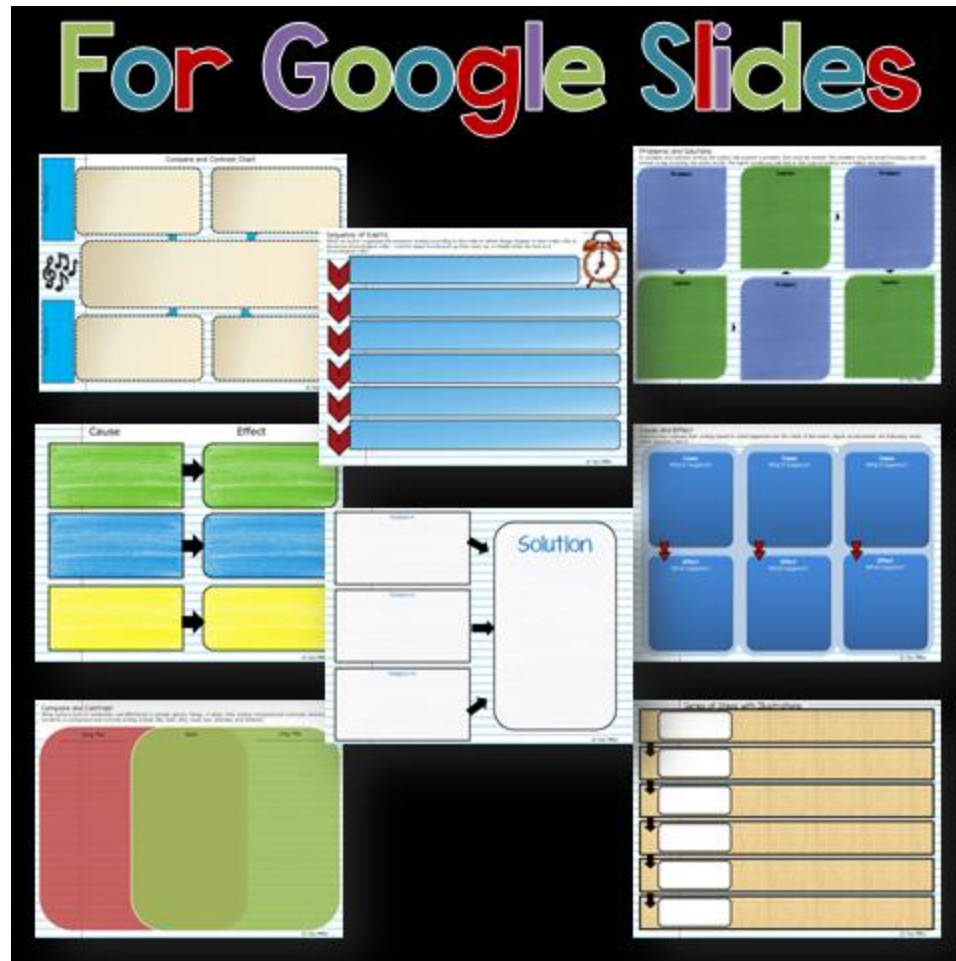
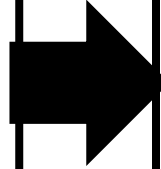## Cause

Effect
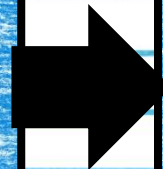
Cause

Effect

Cause and Effect

Authors may organize their writing based on what happened and the result of the event. Signal words include the following: *since, when, because,* and *if.*

Cause
Why it happens?

Cause
Why it happens?

Cause
Why it happens?

Effect
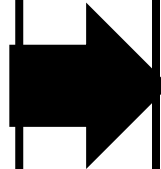What happens?

Effect
What happens?

Effect
What happens?

Cause and Effect

Authors may organize their writing based on what happened and the result of the event. Signal words include the following: *since, when, because,* and *if.*

Cause Why it happens?	**Cause** Why it happens?	**Cause** Why it happens?

Effect What happens?	**Effect** What happens?	**Effect** What happens?

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Cause and Effect Chart

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EFFECT - _____

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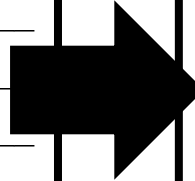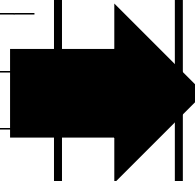
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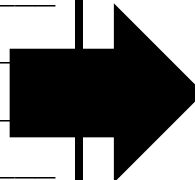
EFFECT - _____

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