Music can inspire. It’s a vehicle for change, for healing, and for finding meaning in life. Certain songs have the ability to function as pivotal catalysts in our lives. They can awaken our resilience, both personally and collectively. Songs are able to redirect our perspectives and take us to deeper thoughts. Water can have these same effects on us.

Ben Weaver has been a dedicated ambassador for the natural world and Great Lakes specifically. The vivid imagery he fills his songs and poems with are captivating. His song *Hawk Eyed Nephew* is a striking example of how songs can provide personal reflection on the human relationship with water.
AN EXERCISE FOR REFLECTING ON THE HUMAN—WATER RELATIONSHIP

This exercise can be done a group or alone.

**STEP 1**
Ask all participants to write down these three questions:
- I hear...?
- It makes me think....?
- Now I wonder...?

**STEP 2**
Listen to the song (and read the lyrics).

**STEP 3**
After listening to the song, use the three questions.
- Write down the name of the song and obvious themes and tones under “I hear...?”
- Write down what you think the song is about under “It makes me think...?”
- Write down what you are wondering or curious about under “Now I wonder...?”

Discuss as a group or in pairs what you have written.

**STEP 4**
Listen to the song a second time and repeat Step 3.

**STEP 5**
Hold an open discussion with the group on the themes found in the song and reflections of the participants.

GROUP QUESTIONS

How does the song reflect on the human-water relationship?
How does the song use the concepts of the commons and/or commoning?
What can we learn from the song about water care?

An audio recording of Hawk Eyed Nephew can be accessed at greatlakescommons.org
HAWKED EYED NEPHEW
BY BEN WEAVER

Hawk eyed nephew
clufted at the branch tops
part gift part burden
up above the river mouth
eye time I look
you always in the road
nothing behind you
just a thin line in the snow

Connected by a chain
carved from one piece of bone
in order to be clear
water it must run

In the civil twilight
sister chestnut on my tracks
slept good in the lowlands
like hell up in the sumac
where will I sing
when the wind has no trees
and there's nothing to hold onto
but a pocket full of seeds

Maybe you heard wooden axle
clanking up the moon

great grandma she is coming
with a forest full of truth
take this mighty river
and hold it to your eyes
when the fish look up through the mud
they see the same stars you see tonight

I built my fire in the wind
to fan the flames of discontent
with pieces of drift wood
gonna stake out my tent
jeffry said it best
down by the spring
the only thing worth carrying
is the tune your whistling

Uncle whistle bones believed
the sun the rain the wind
the earth is a spirit
from which all life extends
there's power in a blizzard
the hummingbird wings you can't see
disregard the tyrants
and just listen to the land and water
speak

More from Ben Weaver at BENWEAVER.NET