

Song: Over the Rainbow (1939)

Songwriters: Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

Brief Context: "Over the Rainbow," with music by Harold Arlen and lyrics by E.Y. "Yip" Harburg, is the Academy-Award-winning song from the 1939 MGM film, The Wizard of Oz. Dorothy Gale, played by Judy Garland, sings this song on her family's farm in Kansas when longing for "some place where there isn't any trouble".

Activity: Singing and Engaged Discussion

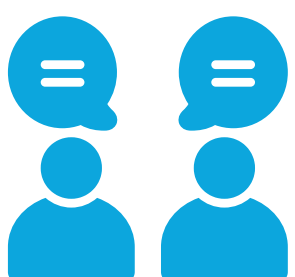
What do you need?

- ***Perfect Harmony "Over the Rainbow" video***
- ***Visual Prompt***
- ***Lyric Sheet***
- ***Enjoy an additional performance of "Over the Rainbow" recorded by a high school Perfect Harmony volunteer***

Suggested Discussion

- ***When do we see rainbows?***
- ***What is your favorite color of the rainbow?***

Extra tip: Watch the classic MGM film "The Wizard of Oz" and sing along! Currently available for streaming on Amazon, HBO Max, YouTube and Apple TV.



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Michael Feinstein, Founder

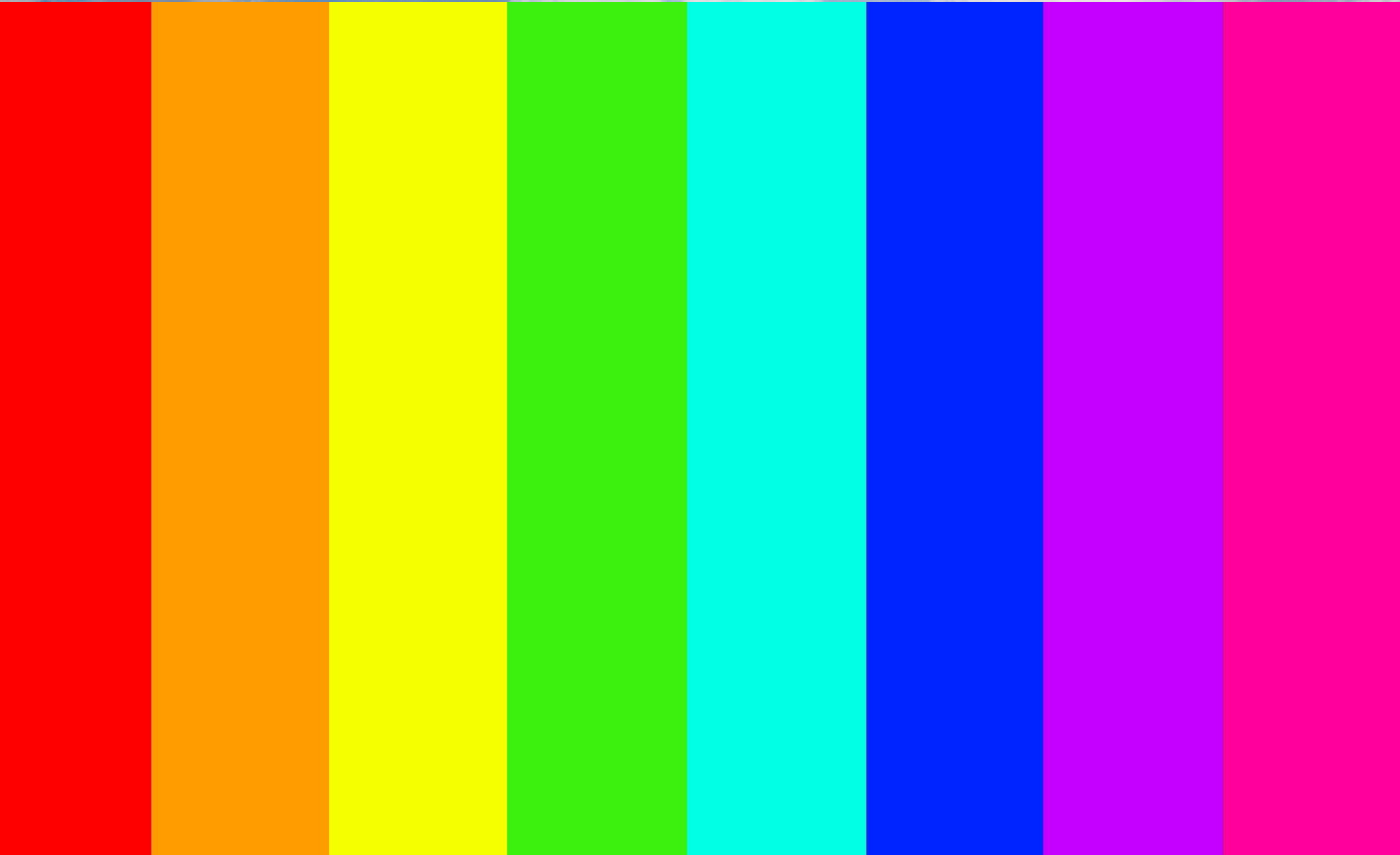
Over the Rainbow

**Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high
There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby
Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true**

**Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds
are far behind me
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That's where you'll find me**

**Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh why can't I?**

**If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow
Why, oh why can't I?**



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Song: Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree (1939)
Made Popular By: Tony Orlando and Dawn

Brief Context: "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree" is a 1973 chart topping hit recorded by Tony Orlando and Dawn. The folk song is told from the point of view of an outcast who is returning home. He writes a letter to his love asking her to tie a yellow ribbon round an old oak tree if she wants him back in her life.

Activity: Listening and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- ***Perfect Harmony "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree" video***
- ***Perfect Harmony lyric sheet***

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- ***Have you ever returned home after being away a long time?***
- ***What did it feel like to be home again?***



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Song: Rainbow Connection (1979)
Movie: "The Muppet Movie"

Brief Context: "Rainbow Connection" is sung by Kermit the Frog in the 1979 film *The Muppet Movie* as the Muppets prepare to set out for a new adventure. Swamp-dweller Kermit plucks a banjo, thinks about rainbows and "what's on the other side" — much like Judy Garland's Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Activity: Movement (upper body)

What do you need?

- ***Perfect Harmony "Rainbow Connection" video***
- ***A scarf, bandana, or ribbon***

Suggested Seated Movement

Follow the scarf movements of the leader in this video or improvise with your partner(s)!

- ***Gently let the scarf flow back and forth***
- ***Create circles and go out and in, one arm at a time***
- ***Alternate letting the scarf flow back and forth and from left to right***
- ***Repeat!***



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Song: Blue Suede Shoes (1955)

Made Popular By: Elvis Presley

Brief Context: Elvis' cover of Carl Perkin's 1955 rockabilly song "Blue Suede Shoes" was the first song on his debut album *Elvis Presely*. In 1956, Elvis appeared on the Steve Allen Show dressed in formal evening wear, and said, "I think that I have on something tonight that's not quite right for evening wear," and showed the audience his blue suede shoes.

Activity: Listening and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Recording of Elvis' "*Blue Suede Shoes*"**
- **Lyric sheet**

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- **Do you like the color blue?**
- **What else is blue? (examples: sky, ocean, blueberries, flowers, etc.)**



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Song: Coat of Many Colors (1971)

Songwriter: Dolly Parton

Brief Context: "Coat of Many Colors" is a song written and recorded by American country music singer Dolly Parton. It was released in September 1971 as the second single and title track from the album Coat of Many Colors. Dolly's song was inspired by her mother who sewed colorful rags together to make a coat for Dolly like the one Joseph wore in the Bible.

Activity: Listening and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Coat of Many Colors" video**

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- **Has someone ever given you something that made you feel special?**
- **What was it?**

Extra tip: Hold the hand of the person next to you and sway along!



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