



# Charter Toolkit

A SONG BY BEN WEAVER  
AND A MUSICAL ACTIVITY

**M**usic 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.



[GREATLAKESCOMMONS.ORG](http://GREATLAKESCOMMONS.ORG)



GREAT LAKES COMMONS



## 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](http://greatlakescommons.org)





## HAWKED EYED NEPHEW

BY BEN WEAVER

Hawk eyed nephew  
clutched at the branch tops  
part gift part burden  
up above the river mouth  
every 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](http://BENWEAVER.NET)

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