Social Studies 11 – I’m Just a Canadian Bill – Song Activity

Task: Rewrite the lyrics to “I’m Just a Bill” using Canadian Terminology.

**Boy**: Woof! You sure got to climb a lot of steps to get to this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Capitol) Building here in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Washington). But I wonder who that sad little scrap of paper is?

**Bill**: I'm just a bill

Yes, I'm only a bill

And I'm sitting here on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Capitol) Hill

Well, it's a long, long journey

To the capital city

It's a long, long wait

While I'm sitting in committee

But I know I'll be a law someday

At least I hope and pray that I will

But today I am still just a bill

**Boy**: Gee, Bill, you certainly have a lot of patience and courage.

**Bill**: Well I got this far. When I started, I wasn't even a bill, I was just an idea. Some folks back home decided they wanted a law passed, so they called their local \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Congressman) and he said, "You're right, there ought to be a law." Then he sat down and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wrote me out) and introduced me to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_( Congress.) And I became a bill, and I'll remain a bill until they decide to make me a law.

CHORUS

**Boy**: Listen to those \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (congressmen) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(arguing!) Is all that discussion and debate about you?

**Bill**: Yeah, I'm one of the lucky ones. Most bills never even get this far. I hope they decide to report on me favorably, otherwise I may die.

**Boy**: Die?

**Bill**: Yeah, die in committee. Oh, but it looks like I'm going to live! Now I go to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (House of Representatives,) and they vote on me.

**Boy**: If they vote yes, what happens? (AFTER HOW MANY READINGS:\_\_\_\_\_\_)

**Bill**: Then I go to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Senate) and the whole thing starts all over again.

**Boy**: Oh no!

**Bill**: Oh yes!

I'm just a bill

Yes, I'm only a bill

And if they vote for me on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Capitol Hill)

Well, then I'm off to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(White House)

Where I'll wait in a line

With a lot of other bills

For the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(President) to sign

And if he signs me, then I'll be a law

How I hope and pray that he will

But today I am still just a bill

**Boy**: You mean even if the whole \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Congress) says you should be a law, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (President) can still say no?

(Although it is possible, in Canada this is never the case).

**Bill**: Yes, that's called a veto. If the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(President) vetoes me, I have to go back to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Congress) and they vote on me again, and by that time you're so old . . .

**Boy**: By that time it's very unlikely that you'll become a law. It's not easy to become a law, is it?

**Bill**: No!

But how I hope and I pray that I will

But today I am still just a bill

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Congressman): He signed you, Bill! Now you're a law!

**Bill**: Oh yes!