**Writing Activity: Yankee Doodle**

*By Claire Rudolf Murphy*

I am currently working on a new manuscript about the history of this song and the different protest and patriotic verses that have been sung written throughout our country’s history. Below are a couple of examples.

Original Song:

*Yankee Doodle went to town*

*A-riding on a pony*

*Stuck a feather in his cap*

*And called it macaroni.*

CHORUS:

*Yankee Doodle keep it up,*

*Yankee Doodle Dandy.*

*Mind the music and the step*

*And with the girls be handy.*

Examples below feature the women’s fight to win the vote and the 1965 voting rights march.

*Yankee Doodle’s wife and girls*

*Shall have his full protection*

*Shall share his car and holidays*

*And vote at his elections.*

Yankee Doodle keep it up

Our brothers shall not flout us

Mind the music, keep the step

They shall not vote without us!

*Wallace said we couldn't march*

*We knew he was a phony*

*Now we're marching all the way*

*To make him eat baloney.*

Freedom fighters keep it up,

Even though you're weary.

Freedom fighters keep it up,

We love our Freedom dearly.

**WRITING ACTIVITIES:**

* Write a new Yankee Doodle verse for a cause you believe in.
* Write a story in which characters from history or today sing a new version of Yankee Doodle – comic or serious.

**STEPS TO TAKE:**

1. Pick a topic.
2. Write down five facts about it.
3. Pick some rhyming words from the list above and add to it.
4. Follow the rhyming pattern. Notice how sometimes words or phrases are repeated. Consider trying that in your version.