

## How To Bring Literacy into your Music Classroom!

Bring beautiful literature into your classroom and use it to enhance your curriculum! We will draw parallels between Language Arts and Music, look at how story building and composing are alike, and finish by exploring ways your students can create accompaniments to award winning books and fairy tales. Leave with projects and lessons that can be used the very next day!

LITERATURE AND ACTIVITIES: (All activities can be used with anything that makes sound or classroom instruments)

- For all of the stories we will:
  - look at story sequence vs. musical form
  - draw similarities between phrasing and flow of literature vs. music
  - look at directionality (reading left to right/ then top to bottom)
  - look at one to one correspondence for letter to sound or note to sound

### **Knuffle Bunny By Mo Willems**

- This story is about a baby that loses his stuffed animal in the Laundromat and cannot speak, so he cries, but his dad doesn't know what he is crying about
- This is great for Kindergarteners!
- We will talk about expressing our feelings
  - Using our words instead of hitting, kicking, etc...
- Talk about how music expresses the thoughts and feelings of the composer
- Look at music that expresses sadness, happiness, fear, etc...
- Choose different sounds (environmental, instrumental and body percussion or voice) to express different emotions

### **Where the Wild Things Are By Maurice Sendak**

- This is a great story to do with the little ones!
- We will act out the story
- Create sounds with different instruments for characters
- Talk about one's imagination and fantasy world
- Kids will describe their own fantasy place and create a short composition to show what that place would sound like

### **Frederick By Leo Leoni**

- (Is about a mouse that spends the warmer months gathering colors and stories in his head so that when winter comes, he will have something to share with the group to make them feel better)

- Talk about being different/ that's ok
- Build on the theme of one's imagination and talk about if it is winter, what feeling would you want to have
  - What would that sound like?
- How does music make you feel? (using listening examples)
  - Building on this, give the children paper and crayons while they listen to different types of music. Then have kids talk about their pictures and the music they heard
- Create a classroom piece that illustrates what they would want to hear in the middle of winter
- Comparing the European version of **Little Red Riding Hood** to the Chinese version **Lon Po Po**
  - Compare and contrast stories
  - Compare and contrast music from each culture
  - Create sounds for the characters
  - Create music for different actions in the stories
- Talk about mood and thus instrumentation choices
- Comparing "**The Three Little Pigs**" to "**The True Story of the Little Pigs**" (told from the wolf's point of view)
  - Compare and contrast stories
  - Talk about point of view of characters
  - Create sounds for the characters
  - Create music for different actions in the stories
  - Choose instrumentation for each character, but look at how each character's voice will change depending on the version
    - Thus there will need to be 2 different orchestrations
  - Because these are two different versions of the same story, we will look at variations on a theme in music

### **Frog and Toad All Year By Arnold Lobel**

- This is a longer book, so you can use it with older kids
- Look at the different seasons and what activities Frog and Toad do that make sense for that season
- Compare to Vivaldi's Four Seasons

### **Harry and the Lady Next Door By Gene Zion**

- This is also a longer book
- The story is about a dog that is annoyed with his next door neighbor's singing and how he attempts to get her to stop
- The story talks about high and low, loud and soft and compares different sounds
- We will talk about high and low in terms of instruments and their families
- We will talk about degrees of loud and soft (crescendos and decrescendos)
- Because it is a funny story, we can add some sound comedy
  - Kids will look at what sounds they think are funny and where to place them in the story (parts of movies will be great to use to illustrate this)