

# MUSICAL STORIES

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## A Teaching Guide



## CONTACT INFO

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## ABOUT THIS LESSON

*March is National Reading Month*

**I did this lesson with my 3rd and 4th graders, who then presented to the K-2nd graders.**

There is a strong desire at my school for "arts integration" and "cross-curricular activities." This unit is an effort to merge teaching literacy with music and could be taught for either subject. I am a music teacher and have included the music standards in a .ppt. Many of the videos in the unit are public on YouTube and I was able to get multiple copies of the texts from the public library. If you have any comments or questions please feel free to contact me

# A TEACHING GUIDE

## *Main Intro .ppt*

Start with the Powerpoint titled Main Intro which will help both you and your students understand the goals of this unit.

Engagement pieces are discussing that March is National Reading Month as well as favorite books. Obviously, feel free to change the books from mine to yours.

There is a weekly planner that shows how I laid it out for my students. We did 2 stories per day. I introduced the project and picked groups on Wednesday. Thursday was our practice day, and Friday was performances.

You can structure in any way you see fit, including omitting the performances. Just doing one story per day is perfectly fine. Use the materials in a way that works for both you and your students.

## *Modeling the 4 Stories*

There are 4 story lessons/activities included here:

- Max Found Two Sticks
- Mortimer
- Rap A Tap Tap
- Too Much Noise

There is no intended order in which to do them. Each story reviews the same literacy concepts (Characters, Setting, Plot, etc) and focuses on different musical concepts.

The way I ran it was to

- Read the story/watch the read-a-loud
- Review the information
- Watch the video modeling the activity (briefly)
- Read the story to the students while they played along

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## *Comunity Performances*

You can do this performances “in-house” where your students just read and perform for each other. You can also collaborate with other teachers/classrooms and have your students read aloud and perform for another teacher’s class. *For example, my 3rd graders performed for Kindergarten, but you will need multiple copies of each book.* I was able to get them either from other teachers, or my local library.

In your class, students break into groups, choose their story, and instruments, and practice the exact activity you did previously – Meanwhile you check with other classes, circulate a sign-up sheet, etc and see if there are others who would be willing to accommodate your students reading/performing in THEIR room.

Each story is incredibly short (less than 10/15m) so it won’t take up much class time. I did this with my last class of the day on a Friday – and most teachers were HAPPY to have students entertain their classes.

Each Student Group has to fill out a Sign-up Sheet saying: what story they’re reading, who is in the group, what instruments they need, and who will be doing what. It helps them get organized and holds them accountable. Groups/student who did NOT fill this out (or didn’t practice) were NOT allowed to perform for other classes and had to perform for me during a different time.