

Drumming, Songs, and Stories: A Recipe for K-2 Success!

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Let's Share a Sound Story!

We create a sound story by taking a children's book and illustrating it with sound instead of pictures....

Story #1: Fortunately, written and illustrated by Remy Charlip;

Sound Story arrangement by Melissa Blum

Every time word "Fortunately": bell tree (right away)

Every "Unfortunately" phrase: group Tubano Rumble; zenergy chime cue to end the rumble

Rest of the "fortunately" phrases all have both the bell tree right after "Fortunately" as well as a sound at the end of the phrase, played by individuals:

Individual instruments:

- Airplane: Kokiriko
- Parachute: Slide whistle up
- Hay Stack: Shekere
- Missed the pitchfork: Glockenspiel gliss down
- Water: Ocean Drum
- Swim: Log drum
- Run: Wood Agogo
- Dig: Cabasa
- **Birthday: all instruments!**



Why Sound Stories?

Combine Literature and Music
Problem solving/creative thinking
Instrument Exploration
Improvisation
Musical Cues
Abstract thinking skills
Turn Taking
Team work
Sequencing
Musical Concepts
Emotional Connections
Endurance!

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Time for some drumming!

- Every musical instrument is about tone
- High or open tone practice
- Low or bass tone practice
- Mittens
- *Drum Up the Sun*, from WMD New Ensembles and Songs, by Will Schmid
...the quiet, gentle, slower sibling to Ensemble 1
- And, a modified version for preK-grade 2, arranged by Melissa Blum

Song Ideas

Rain Rain Go Away
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
Water is Wide

So, what else can we do with this gentle ensemble?

Sound Story 2: Leaf Man , by Lois Ehlert; Sound Story arrangement by Melissa Blum

The sound story uses a repeated group phrase, Modified Drum up the Sun, and additional sound effects

Repeated group phrase:

- The narrator cues each phrase of "A leaf man's got to go where the wind blows": by saying, "Well..."
 - The phrase is spoken by everyone and drummers first wave fall leaf-colored scarves, then rub the scarves on the Tubano heads
 - Each time, the finger cymbals are the cue to end this sequence and go back to reading the story

Modified Drum Ensemble:

- Finger Cymbals cue at the very beginning, then the drums are layered in
- Drumming ends at "Blew Out of Sight"
- Drums come back in after "A Leaf Man's got to go..."
- End again each time before the "Well" and back in after the "A Leaf Man's got to go..."
- Drumming out for rest of story at "only the wind knows"

Sound effects/coordinating description:

- ✓ Pile of Leaves/rustle of leaves: crinkly paper (happens at beginning and end of story)
- ✓ Chickens: Canary Stick

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- ✓ Ducks/Geese: Duck Call/Taxi Horn
- ✓ Turkey: Quack Stick
- ✓ Above the orchards: xylophone gliss up and down (a few times)
- ✓ Over Prairie Meadows: Log drum
- ✓ Cows: Cowbell
- ✓ Lake Breeze: Rainbomaker
- ✓ River: Ocean Drum
- ✓ Butterflies: Bell Tree
- ✓ Flock of Birds: Caxixi Rattle
- ✓ Lonesome for a home: Zenergy Chime

Sound Story 3: The Bear Snores On , by Karma Wilson & Jane Chapman; Sound Story arrangement by Melissa Blum

The sound story uses a repeated group phrase, Modified Drum up the Sun, and additional sound effects

Repeated group phrase:

- The narrator cues each phrase of "But the Bear Snores On": by playing the Zenergy Chime
 - The phrase is spoken by everyone, followed by a Guiro/Descending Slide Whistle "snore"
 - The very last "snore" comes after the drums and the story ends... "Friends Snore On"

Modified Drum Ensemble:

- No drums to start, and at "Sleeps a Great Brown Bear" drums give a slow rumble. Rumble ends with a cue from the Zenergy Chime.
- Then layer in the Drum up the Sun Ensemble.
- Drumming continues throughout the story, ending with vibraslap after "Raaa-Chooo!"
- Then rumble as cued by the narrator
- Restart the ensemble after "Bear Blubbers On"

Sound effects/coordinating description:

- ✓ Sleeps through the day, he sleeps through the night: Wood Agogo
- ✓ Mouse...from the fluff-cold snow: Quack Stick
- ✓ Wee twigs with a small hot spark: Claves
- ✓ Hare hops in: Didgeharp Shaker
- ✓ Big Burps: Taxi Horn
- ✓ Chew: Ratchet
- ✓ Crunch: Shekere
- ✓ Flutter in through the door: Canary Stick
- ✓ Everybody clutters in the great bear's den: all previous sounds
- ✓ Chat and chitter: all previous sounds
- ✓ Sleeps through the party in his very own lair: Guiro/Slide Whistle Snore

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- ✓ Raaaa-chooo: Vibraslap (drums end ensemble and begin quiet rumble)
- ✓ Snarls, rumbles, stomps, grumbles: Thunder Tube
- ✓ Blubbers on: Flexatone
- ✓ Tall Tales through the blustery night: Xylophone improvise in an ascending way
- ✓ Friends snore on: (wait for drums to end) Guiro/Slide Whistle Snore

*Song, Poetry, Movement, and Improvisation: You Are My Sunshine
Here In the Moonlight verse & activity arrangement by Melissa Blum
"With The Sun" poem by Lily Huber*

First Rendition of song:

- Begin with Modified Drum Up the Sun Ensemble
- Singers/dancers free dance with "sunny scarves" (orange, yellow, gold, etc)
- Sing/dance through traditional verse 1 of You Are My Sunshine
- Drums end with a cue from the zenergy chime (or triangle) and immediately begin
- With the Sun sound poem:

Poem with Sound Illustrations:

- ✓ With the Sun: Zenergy Chime (only play for the full phrase, not just the word "sun")
- ✓ Laugh/laughing: Quack Stick
- ✓ Play/playing: Stir Xylophone
- ✓ Dancing: Log Drum
- ✓ From My Head to My Toes: Descending improvised line on xylophone
- ✓ Begin to Run: Wood agogo, start slow and speed up
- ✓ The Day Winds Down: Crank ratchet

With the Sun

I open my eyes, stretch out my arms
I am waking with the sun

The day is ours
To laugh, to play, to dance around
I am playing with the sun

I lie flat on my back, feel the warmth of the sun spread from my head to my toes
Filled with energy, I begin to run
I am running with the sun

All day we spend,
The sun and I

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Laughing, playing dancing

The day winds down
I begin to yawn
I am yawning with the sun

I curl into bed, I close my eyes
"Good night," I whisper
I am dreaming with the sun

Second Rendition of song:

- Drum Ensemble Begins again
- Singers/dancers free dance with "moon scarves" (white, light blue, lavender, etc)
- Sing/dance Moonlight verse

*Here in the Moonlight, the crystal moonlight
It's time to rest now, I have to say
When we awaken
We'll play again, friend
And we'll drum another day!*

- Short interlude of just the drum ensemble
- Add back Singers/Dancers with sunny colored scarves , so that "sun" and "moon" scarves are all in play
- Sing/dance traditional verse 1

Resources:

World Music Drumming 20th Anniversary Edition, by Will Schmid, item: 860716

WMD New Ensembles and Songs, by Will Schmid, item: 816018

Fortunately, by Remy Charlip, item:

Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert, item:

Bear Snores On, by Karma Wilson & Jane Chapman, item: 841646

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Join me for Drumming Up the Fun! Summer 2025!

and

The West Music California Traveling Road Show, July 2025

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Drum up the Sun

Arranged for Early Childhood by Permission of the Author

Will Schmid
arr. M. Blum

The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves:

- Egg Shaker:** Four measures. Measure 1: quarter note G4 (labeled 'scrambled'). Measure 2: quarter note G4 with a square box (labeled 'egg'). Measure 3: quarter note G4 (labeled 'scrambled'). Measure 4: quarter note G4 with a square box (labeled 'egg').
- Medium Drum:** Four measures. Measure 1: quarter note G4 (labeled 'low'). Measure 2: quarter note G5 (labeled 'high'). Measure 3: quarter note G4 (labeled 'low'). Measure 4: quarter note G5 (labeled 'high'). A note below the first two measures reads '(strong hand on high tone)'. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end.
- Low Drum:** Four measures. Measure 1: quarter note G4 (labeled 'hold'). Measure 2: quarter note G4 (labeled 'then'). Measure 3: quarter note G4 (labeled 'play'). Measure 4: quarter note G4 (labeled 'mit - tens'). A horizontal bar with 'x' marks spans measures 1-2 and 3-4.
- High Drum:** Four measures. Measure 1: quarter note G4 (labeled 'mit - tens'). Measure 2: quarter note G4 (labeled 'mit - tens'). Measure 3: quarter note G4 (labeled 'and'). Measure 4: quarter note G4 (labeled 'a drum'). A horizontal bar with 'x' marks spans measures 1-2 and 3-4. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end.

Notes:

-For egg shaker: Shake in one hand on beats 1 & 3. "Stop" the sound with the other hand to create the tone of beats 2 & 4.

-Mittens: Play with a muffled palm stroke in the middle of the drum.
Imagine you are wearing very thick mittens and the extremely quiet sound they would produce on the drum.

The pedagogical focus of Modified Drum Up the Sun is to explore a muted tone on the drum and to combine familiar rhythms into a slower ensemble. The modified ensemble is not intended to represent a traditional ensemble from a particular genre.

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