

Sammy Writes A Song

Teacher Notes - Elements

DURATION (Beat, Rhythm, Tempo)

BEAT

P.8 "ones you could sing that sounded in time"

P. 11 "Ned could beat time with a spoon in his hand ... while sitting on his seat, he could make noise with the beat in his feet"

As an introduction to the song, to establish the beat and the tempo, select two sounds e.g. stamp and clap and play them alternatively (stamp clap stamp clap etc)

This beat can be played with the other instruments - playing along with the song (accompaniment)

RHYTHM

P.11 "the backing band sang 'na na nah's'

P. 8 "ones you could sing that sounded in time"

P. 3 "Every morning when the sun comes up I wake up in my bed" is a pattern of long and short sounds e.g. pattern of syllables in the words of Sammy song and in the 'na na nahs' whether they sing or play on the guitar
The 'na na nas' are in place of a rhythm guitar

TEMPO

P. 1 "He sang songs ...fast and slow"

P. 13 "He cued in the band by counting to 4"

The 'count in' is very important for setting the tempo (speed) of the song

Counting in fast or slowly sets the tempo for children to sing the song fast or slowly

PITCH

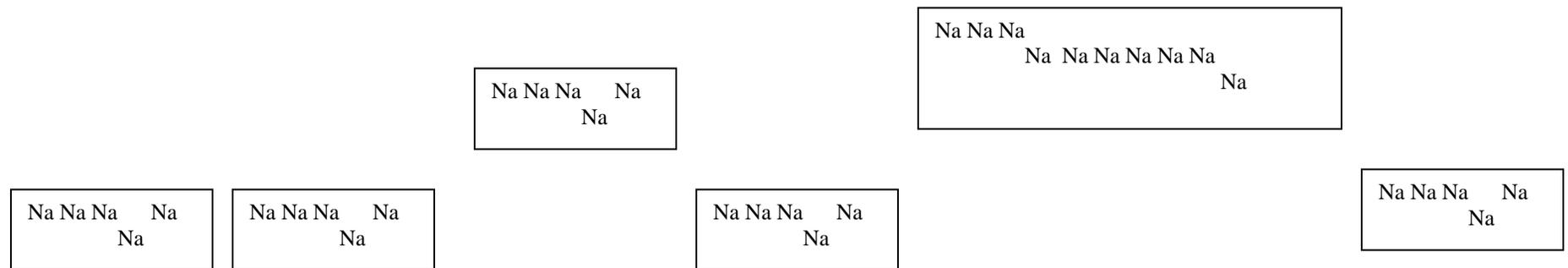
P. 1 "He sang songs...high and low"

Sammy's song explores pitch in a number of ways:

Sammy uses a small range of 5 notes to sing the melody (tune) of the song

Grizelda extends the range of notes (high and low) to vary the melody of the song

A singer in the backing band imitates a rhythm guitar in the backing band -repeats the melodic pattern 'na na na' at three levels



Another singer in the backing band imitates the bass guitar sings individual sounds to "bom bom bom ba da da"

DYNAMICS

Introduction: 'psst - turn the page'

P. 1 "He sings songs loudly and softly"

Children can sing songs loudly and softly and experiment with dynamics when singing

Varying the dynamics in a song makes it more interesting to listen to

e.g. Every morning when the sun comes up (softly) I wake up in my bed (loudly)

tone colour

p.1 "He sang songs ... sweetly, gruffly"

p.14 "he started to sing and sound like Tarzan"

p.16 "Try it again and change your voice. Sing it with the sound of your choice"

Grizelda's voice explores lots of different tone colours (sounds)

Sammy's voice maintains one tone colour (sound) except when he sounds like Tarzan

On track 6 of the CD the tone colours (sounds) of a high-hat cymbal and a snare drum (parts of a drumkit) are playing the backing music (accompaniment) with a rhythm guitar, a lead guitar and a bass guitar and the children cheering at the end

As well there are special used for effect in the recorded version of the story e.g. wind chimes, organ fanfare, spring (boing) birds and other sound` effects

STRUCTURE

Samy Writes ` A ` song is in a familiar pattern of three lines with rhyming words at the end of each line. With the simple chord sequence used this structure is called 12 bar blues.

Each line has 8 beats - the last beat is silent

Ways of organizing the sections in "Sammy Writes A Song" are:

Intro - Verse - Verse - Chorus but the song can also have a lead break for a feature instrument e.g. kazoo or shaker