

Smarty Activity

Reading Strategies

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Book App: *Gorilla Band*

Activity Title: Reading Strategies
Approximate Grade Level(s): Pre K - 4

**Subject(s): Language Arts, Literacy in
Music**

Discussion Questions with Deeper Thinking

- **Text-to-Self** –
The gorillas in this story are “bored.” To be “bored” or suffer from “boredom” means that you don’t have anything to do.

The gorillas overcame their boredom by joining their musical talents and forming a band.

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Think of a time when you have been bored. Why were you bored?

What do you enjoy doing? Drawing? Writing? Swimming? Dancing? Reading?

How could you change a boring day into a fun day? Who would you invite to join you?

- **Text-to-Text –**

What is a gorilla? How are gorillas different from humans?

Have you ever read a story or watched a movie with gorillas in it? What was its title? What happened in this story?

- **Text-to-World –**

The band in this story had the following instruments: piano, violin, drums, guitar, saxophone, double bass, and conga drums.

What do you know about each of these instruments? Read about them in books or on the internet (with an adult's help, of course).

- ✓ **Do you know where each instrument was created?**
- ✓ **What is unique or different about each instrument?**
- ✓ **Describe how each instrument looks.**
- ✓ **Have you seen any of these instruments? Where?**

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- **Main Idea** –

A “Main Idea” is a lesson that you can learn from a story.

Miss Melody says, “You never know what you can do unless you have a shot.”

What does this mean?

How is it a lesson that you can learn?

How can you apply it to your life?

- **Inference** –

Look at the picture on the first page where the gorilla is swinging from a tree, looking down on a piano and Miss Melody McCann.

Authors often give their characters names that represent their personalities or what they do. This author gave the music teacher the name “Miss Melody.”

What does the word “melody” mean?

How does this name represent what the teacher does?

....

One of Miss Melody’s students played the violin “by ear.”

Do you know what “by ear” means?

If not, can you make a guess?

- **Cause/Effect** –

When you “poke,” “tap,” or “shove” the gorillas in this book app (cause), what happens to each one (effect)?

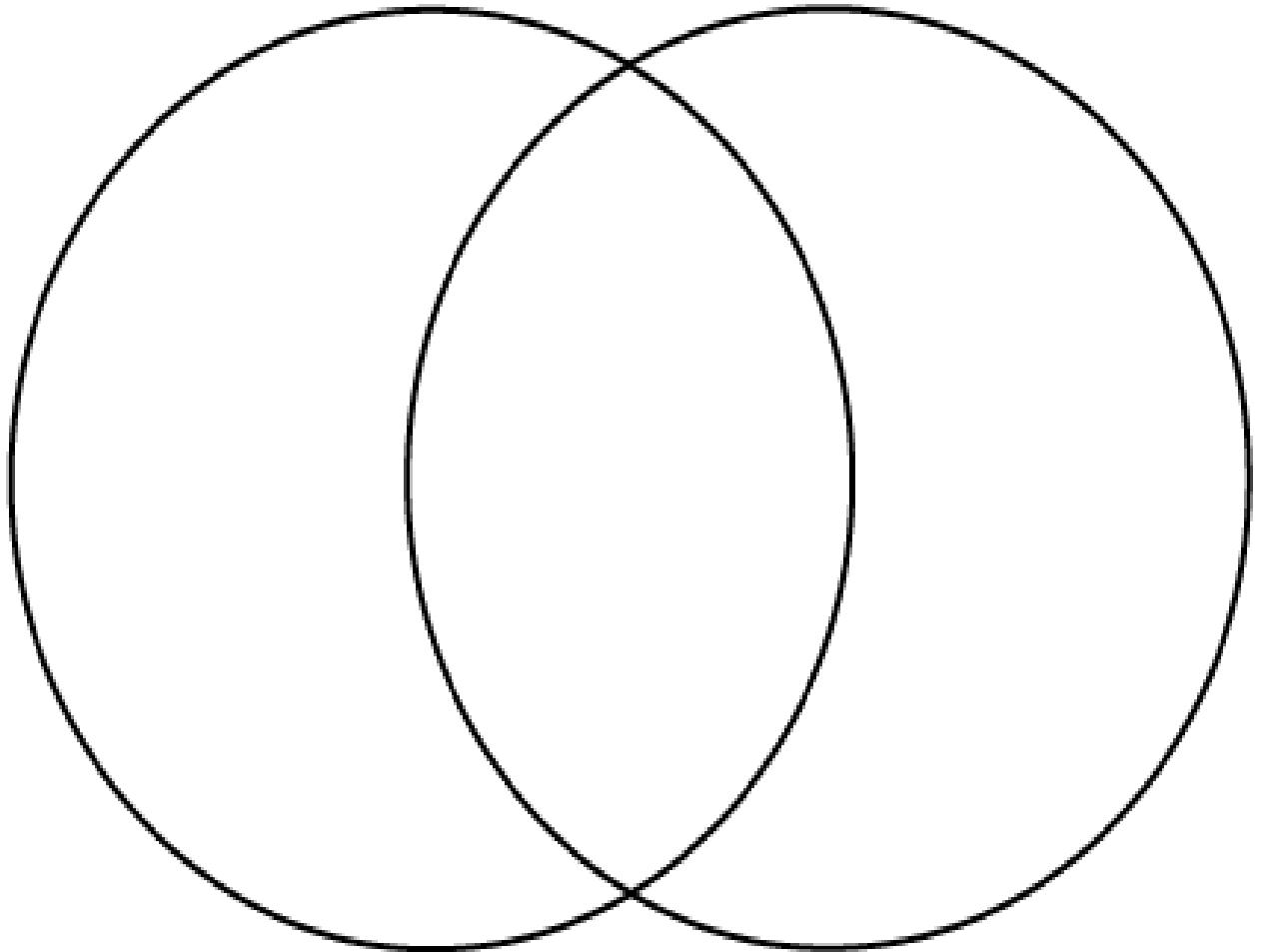
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- **Compare/Contrast** –
How are a guitar and a double bass alike? How are they different?
How are drums and conga drums alike? How are they different?

Draw a Venn Diagram like the one below for the guitar/double bass and for the drums/conga drums. In the middle circle, list the ways they are alike. In the outer circles, list the ways that they are different.



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- **Illustrating** –
Gorillas played in the band in this story.
Choose another animal to play in this band.
Draw this animal playing the instruments.
- **Pun** –
A Pun is a play on words. The word can suggest two different meanings.

For example, think about the following sentence:
A horse is a very stable animal.

The word “stable” has two meanings:

- ✓ A building with stalls that house horses
- ✓ Something that is not easily changed and is very firm and reliable

In the story, the gorillas say, “this music really swings.”

What are the two different meanings for “swings” in this line?

- **Poetry Type**
One line in the story says, “The students in the school meanwhile were practicing a sonnet...”.

Do you know that a “sonnet” is a poem that has 14 lines? Wow! That’s a lot of lines!

Choose a subject (such as Rain, Fear, Laughter, Candy, or Trees) and try to write 14 lines about your subject.

Can you do it?

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- **Poetry Structure** –

Some poems rhyme; this means that they have words that sound alike, such as rain/train or buddy/muddy.

Start at the beginning of the story. As you read its pages, find the words that rhyme.

Hint: Look at the last word of each line to find the rhymes.

- **Opinion Writing** -

The last member to join the band is a girl who sings. "Lyrics" are the words to a song.

Do you have a favorite song? What is its title? Do you know the words or lyrics to this song?

When you listen to this song or when you sing this song, how does it make you feel? Happy? Sad? Adventurous? Curious?

Think: Why does it make you feel this way?

Writing – Write about your chosen song.

- ✓ **Place the title of the song at the top of the page.**

Now write about your opinion of this song. Some of the things you could write about are...

- ✓ **What is the song about?**
- ✓ **How do the lyrics or words make you feel?**
- ✓ **Why do you think they make you feel this way?**
- ✓ **Does the music make you want to dance?**

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- **Informative writing** -
Choose your favorite instrument in the *Gorilla Band*.

Draw this instrument and put its name at the top of the page.

Below your drawing of the instrument, list everything that you know about it.

Show this drawing to a classmate, friend, or family member and explain everything that you know about this instrument.

- **Music** -
Look around your house or classroom for instruments that you could play. If you do not have any instruments, create some. For example, wooden spoons and cooking bowls could be drums.

What other kind of instruments can you create?

**Now ask a friend or family member to join your band.
What song would you like to sing?
Would you rather write the words or lyrics for a new song?**

Can all of you rehearse your band's song and then present it to others?

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Common Core Anchor Standards

Reading: 1,2,3,4,5, 9

Writing: 2,7,9

Speaking/Listening: 1,2

Language: 4,5

Bloom's Taxonomy

- **Remembering: Describe, Locate, Write, Identify, Recall, Draw.**
- **Understanding: Explain, Distinguish, Predict, Compare.**
- **Applying: Show, Use, Illustrate, Examine.**
- **Analyzing: Distinguish, Examine, Compare/Contrast, Explain, Identify.**
- **Evaluating: Select, Choose, Decide, Discuss, Determine.**
- **Creating: Create, Invent, Compose, Construct, Design, Imagine.**

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