

Musical Stories



Lesson – *Musical Poetry in Carnival of the Animals*

Companion Video – *Carnival of the Animals*

Suggested Grade Level

Grades 1-4

Objective

Students will listen to *Carnival of the Animals* and identify character traits of the animals the composer is trying to portray in each movement. Students will use these character traits to create a poem that represents a movement in the piece.

Suggested Materials

- BPO video of *Carnival of the Animals*
- Listening Map (provided)

New York State Arts Standards

MU:Re7.1.a-4a

MU:Re8.1.a-4a

New York State English Language Arts & Literacy Standards

Writing, Standard 4

Speaking & Listening, Standard 1, 2, 3 & 6

Language, Standard 1, 2, 3, 5, & 6

Procedure

Music is often used to imitate sounds in nature and represent animals and other living creatures. Composers often write music to illustrate a story or represent an experience or event.

- 1) Explain to students that each movement of *Carnival of the Animals* represents a different animal and that different instruments are used to represent and convey the characteristics of each animal.
- 2) Provide students with the Listening Map so that they may follow along with the animals and movements.
- 3) Have students watch the video of *Carnival of the Animals* and point out which animal each movement represents. Have them think about the character traits of each animal as they listen.



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- 4) Make a list of each of the animals represented in the piece and have students list words that describe each animal. Categories may include the animal's size, speed, sound, physical characteristics, living environment, etc.
- 5) A poem is a piece of writing that uses imaginative words to share ideas, emotions or a story with the reader. Music is a form of poetry without words. Have students select one movement of the piece to write a poem about. Have the students listen to their selected movement again for inspiration. What animal does the music sound like to you? Use the following models for reference and have the students play around with different poetry forms. Have students share their poems with the class.



FREE VERSE Poem Model

The animal [looks like]	The dog is white and furry
The animal [walks like]	The dog prances down the sidewalk
The animal [sounds like]	The dog has a high, shrill bark
The animal [lives]	The dog lives in a white brick house
The animal [eats]	The dog eats steak
The animal [does]	The dog digs for bones in the back yard

ACROSTIC Poem Model

DOGS
Drooling
Obedient
Great Dane
Shaggy fur

HAIKU Poem Model

Line 1 contains 5 syllables	DOGS
Line 2 contains 7 syllables	Running and fetching
Line 3 contains 5 syllables	A dog is a man's best friend
	Loyal, furry pal.

LIMERICK Poem Model

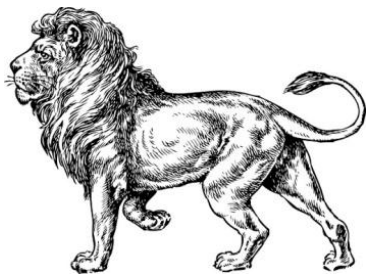
Line 1 contains 8 syllables	There once was a dog that was sad
Line 2 contains 8 syllables	He lost a big bone from his Dad
Line 3 contains 5 syllables	His Mom did a trick
Line 4 contains 5 syllables	And dug it up quick
Line 5 contains 8 syllables	And now the dog's day is not bad

Lines 1, 2 & 5 rhyme with each other
Lines 3 & 4 rhyme with each other

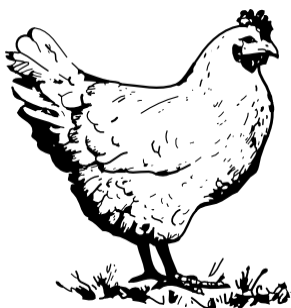


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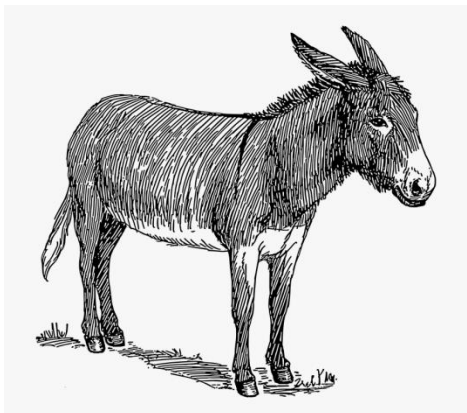
I. Introduction & Royal March of the Lion



II. Hens & Roosters

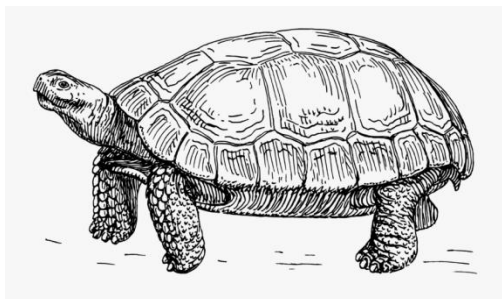


III. Wild Donkeys

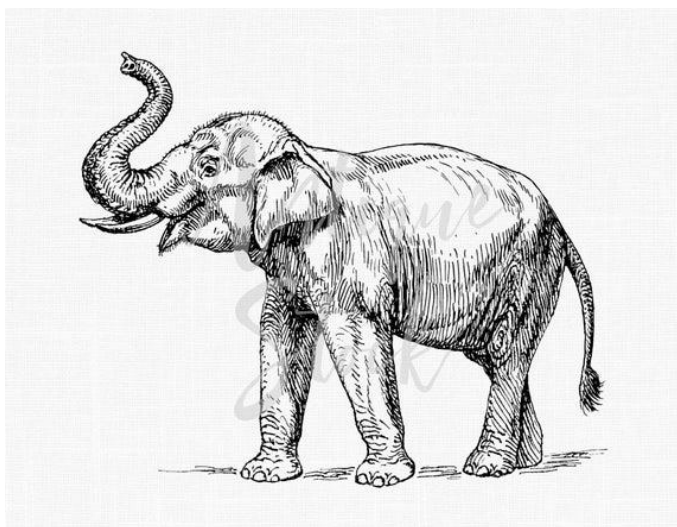


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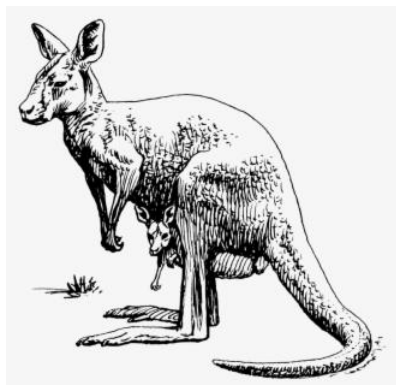
IV. Tortoises



V. Elephant

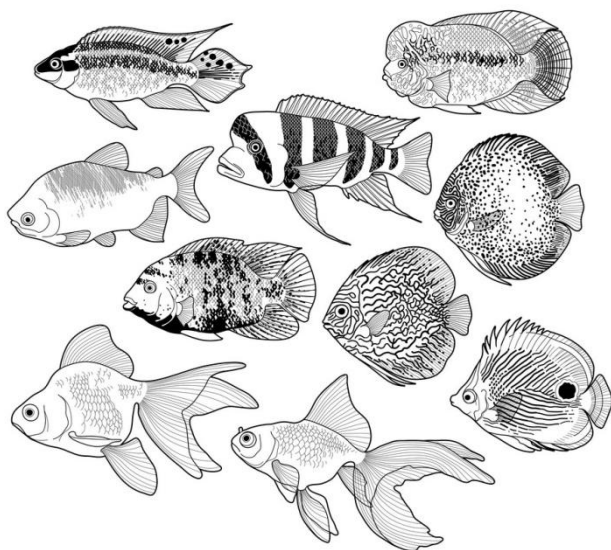


VI. Kangaroos

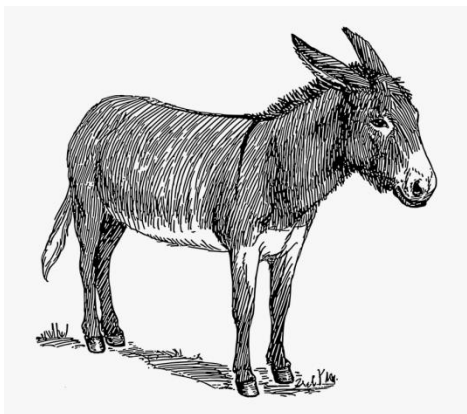


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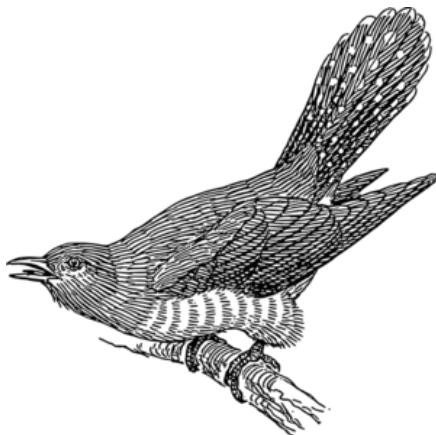
VII. Aquarium



VIII. Characters with Long Ears



IX. The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods



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X. Birds



XI. Pianists

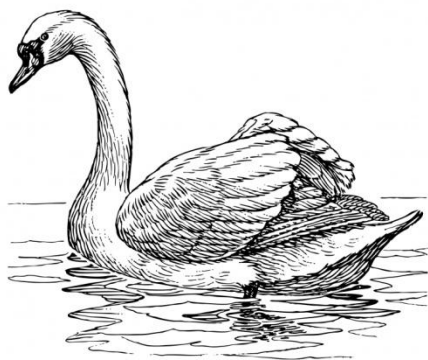


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XII. Fossils



XIII. The Swan



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XIV. Finale

