



# SmashBeats

## TODAY'S ACTIVITY

### 3. Stories and Composition

#### WHO IS THIS ACTIVITY FOR?

Students in years 5 - 7

#### WHO CAN LEAD THIS ACTIVITY?

Class teacher, music specialist or instrumental teacher

#### WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN?

That a story can stimulate an instrumental composition

#### WHAT DO WE NEED?

- A short story
- Tuned / untuned instruments

#### THE ACTIVITY

The teacher or students choose a short story (or could write their own if time allows.)

##### Example:

*'There was a rumble of thunder in the distance. A few raindrops began to fall and the wind began to blow. Lightning began to flash and thunder claps became louder and closer together. The rain became torrential and the wind turned into a gale. A sudden lightning strike hit an old oak tree. Huge black crows flew from the tree cawing and cawing in their fright. As quickly as it had arrived the storm moved away and an eerie silence followed.'*

Individual learners should demonstrate how different bits of the story could be represented on their instruments. The whole class should evaluate each representation, suggest changes and play the sound as a class. Students, supported by their teacher, should produce one simple graphic score of their story (preferably on a classroom whiteboard which the whole class can see). The graphic score might just be a simple timeline with bits of the story on the top and instrumental representations underneath:

<b>rumble</b>	<b>raindrops</b>	<b>wind</b>	_____ etc.
<b>djembe roll</b>	<b>isolated high flute notes</b>	<b>violin slide</b>	

##### Extension:

Pupils could develop a graphic score which allows instruments to play simultaneously and where symbols designed by the learners replace written instructions:

Violins				
Flutes		0	00	
Djembe drums	WWWWWWW	WWWWWWW	WWWWWWW	

The teacher can act as conductor, indicating when the each box on the grid starts or could count a certain number of seconds for each box (e.g. 5 seconds).

#### WHAT WILL WE ASSESS?

- Students will know how to create musical sounds to represent elements of a story
- Students will know how to combine these sounds to make a class composition that represents a whole story
- Students will know how a score can be created to capture their composition