

Creative Learning using:

THE BOY AND THE BUNNET

Composed by James Ross & written by James Robertson

The aim of the music and story of The Boy and the Bunnet is to introduce in an immediately accessible way Scots traditional music and language to children. However the breadth of creative learning activity that can be explored in conjunction with the piece covers many curriculum areas and meets learning experiences and outcomes within those areas.

The Boy and the Bunnet story, told in Scots, has characters in the narrative that are represented by different musical instruments each having their own individual traditional style theme tune.

THE STORY

Neil lives in a house in the country with his Granny and her cat, beside the sea where his friend the selkie lives. The Boy and the Bunnet follows his adventures as, fascinated by the appearance of a handsome stag, he leaves the safety of the garden and enters the nearby wood. Deep in the wood, a place supposedly inhabited by the mysterious and frightening Urisk, he becomes lost and injured. All the animals, including the mischievous crow who has stolen Neil's distinctive blue bunnet, with its red toorie, work together, to alert Granny to the danger he is in, by sending the bunnet on an elaborate journey home.

The work is suitable for primary aged children, particularly p 4–7 and the 30 minute piece can be followed by a number of creative learning activities in the classroom. The activities can meet some experiences and outcomes from the Curriculum for Excellence for Level 1 and 2 Primary aged children.

The materials in this resource pack are designed to inspire you and your class to engage with The Boy and the Bunnet. There are suggestions of ways into listening to the story and music and ideas for exploring the themes through pupils own discussion, creative writing and presentation and their creative responses to the story.

There are a number of exercises and ideas for teaching and learning and some suggested creative approaches to respond to the listening. The ideas and activities in this pack also provide ways for children and adults to access and enjoy the piece out with the classroom. A glossary of Scots words from The Boy and the Bunnet can be found with this resource to help support pupils storytelling and an understanding of the story itself.

Icons throughout the guide help to navigate the various kinds of activities included:



SPEAKING



Further Study



READING



Glossary



WRITING



Downloads



LISTENING

SUGGESTED LESSON FRAMEWORK

Listening to the story 🕒 1 hr

Give the children a short summary of the story by introducing the characters and their musical themes. You can do this by playing the first 8 sections on the CD, pausing in between each.

You will hear them in this order;

Neil's theme; Granny's theme; Cat's theme; Stag's theme; Selkie's theme; Bunnet theme; Craw's theme; Urisk theme.

This will give the class a sense of each of the musical styles they will be listening to within the story.

Listen to the recording 🕒 30 mins

Break this down into shorter chunks with younger children – 2 x 15 minutes playing, stopping at the point where the story reaches a climax with Neil frightened in the wood. The CD is in chapters allowing you to find the natural break.

Make sure the class are ready to listen by structuring some activities to lead into the recording. Often it is a good idea to do something physical like stretching or doing a quick brain exercise like a simple counting game to shake off previous thoughts and things that may be going on in their heads and start the focus of the mind preparing to listen carefully.

They need to be sitting comfortably and not have distractions. It might be useful for them to have paper and pencils in front of them to note down or draw things that occur to them while they are listening.