



# CANTATA LEARNING

## TEACHING NOTES

### ***Cantata Learning*** ***Bringing books to life – through music.***

**Why is music important for information acquisition and retention, and as a basis for literacy?**

*Where words leave off, music begins.* Heinrich Hein

From a sweet lullaby to the tunes that fill our cars as teens, our lives seem set to music from birth to adulthood. It starts with a nursery rhyme and the oh-so-familiar ABC's. What feels like a simple sing-songy game is actually helping children to learn the basics long before they enter a formal classroom setting. Music brings concepts to life providing even the earliest of learners a sensory experience that enhances the learning environment and motivates them to playfully engage with words, themes, rhymes and repetition in a positive, interactive way.

Music provides a beautiful backdrop to the development and enrichment of literacy. Music increases oral language through listening and singing. It builds vocabulary and pre-reading skills which, in turn, builds confidence – a powerful attribute for emerging readers.

The rhyme and rhythm that music offers help build an important pre-reading foundation assisting in the development of important reading skills such as identifying syllables in words, recognizing words in similar families (like *all*, *tall*, *fall*, and *wall*), learning to predict text, and even aiding in the retention of information and ideas.

Music brings learning to life.



**CANTATA  
LEARNING**

1710 Roe Crest Drive  
North Mankato, MN 56001  
[www.cantatalearning.com](http://www.cantatalearning.com)

## **What are the effects of music in the classroom?**

By infusing classroom content with music, children begin to absorb information in a more meaningful and engaging way. Music can be used daily to enrich reading, science, math, arts, and social studies. Music can be used to improve memorization skills and boost the retention of concepts. Music increases attention span, hones listening skills, and strengthens concentration.... all vital proficiencies for successful learners.

And, last but certainly not least... music brings true joy to the learning process by creating an atmosphere of excitement, a feeling of connectedness, and a community of acceptance.

Music is an important part of a child's life from birth to adulthood. This starts with nursery rhymes and the ABC's, which children love to sing. Music livens up learning giving our youngest learners an experience and the motivation to have fun while engaging with words and repetition in a positive, interactive way.

Music and literacy work hand and hand. Music increases oral language through listening and singing. It builds vocabulary and pre-reading skills for early nonreaders and emergent readers, along with confidence, which they use as they begin to explore concepts in print and read.

Rhymes and rhythms build an important foundation to reading. The rhymes and rhythms that children hear in the songs assist in developing reading skills such as identifying syllables in words and recognizing words in the same families (like *all*, *tall*, *fall*, and *wall*).

Music also helps children retain ideas.

## What resources are available to support music in education?

### For Teachers....

#### **PBS Music Classroom:**

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/thismonth/musicclassroom/index1.html>

#### **Flocabulary**, Vocabulary lessons for grades K-12

<https://www.flocabulary.com/subjects/vocabulary/>

#### **GoNoOdle**, Brain breaks for your classrooms

<https://www.gonoodle.com/home>

#### **Carnegie Hall Games and Listening Guides**

<http://www.carnegiehall.org/ORC/Games-and-Listening-Guides/>

#### **Dallas Symphony Orchestra**, school and home activities

<http://www.dsokids.com>

### For Students....

#### **Usborne Virtual Keyboard**

[http://www.usborne.com/quicklinks/music-keyboard/usborne\\_keyboard.swf](http://www.usborne.com/quicklinks/music-keyboard/usborne_keyboard.swf)

#### **Classics for Kids**

<http://classicsforkids.com/games/>

#### **Composers A to Z**

[http://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composers\\_atoz.asp](http://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composers_atoz.asp)

#### **Creating Music**

<http://creatingmusic.com>

#### **Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra**

<http://listeningadventures.carnegiehall.org/ypgto/index.aspx>

#### **Dallas Symphony Orchestra**

<http://www.dsokids.com>, games and

#### **Listen By Composer**

<http://www.dsokids.com/listen/by-composer/.aspx>

### Instrument Where

<http://www.tvokids.com/games/instrumentwhere>

#### **SFSKids Fun & Games With Music**

<http://www.sfskids.org>

#### **PBS Music Games**

<http://pbskids.org/games/music/>

#### **(Splat Symphony with Curious George)**

[http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/games/splat\\_symphony/splat\\_symphony.html](http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/games/splat_symphony/splat_symphony.html)

#### **Beats In Minutes**

<http://www.tvokids.com/games/beatsbitesgames>

**Incredibox**

<http://www.incredibox.com/v1/>

**Virtual Drum Kit**

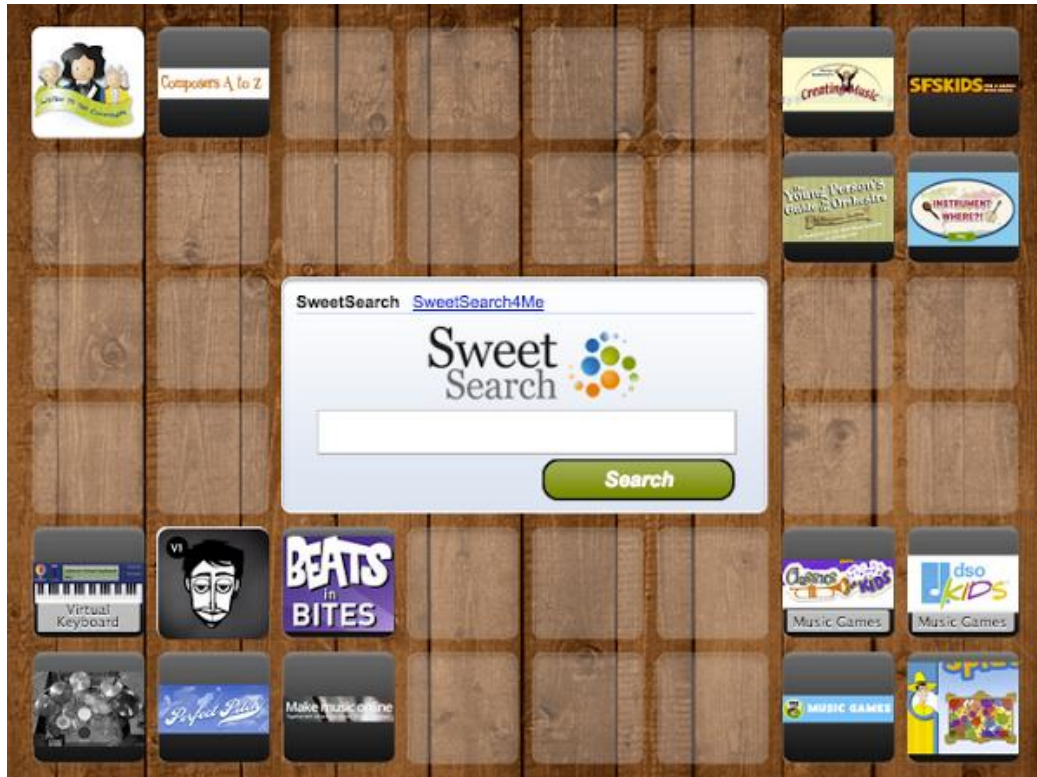
<http://www.kenbrashear.com>

**Kennedy Center Perfect Pitch**

<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/interactives/perfectpitch/>

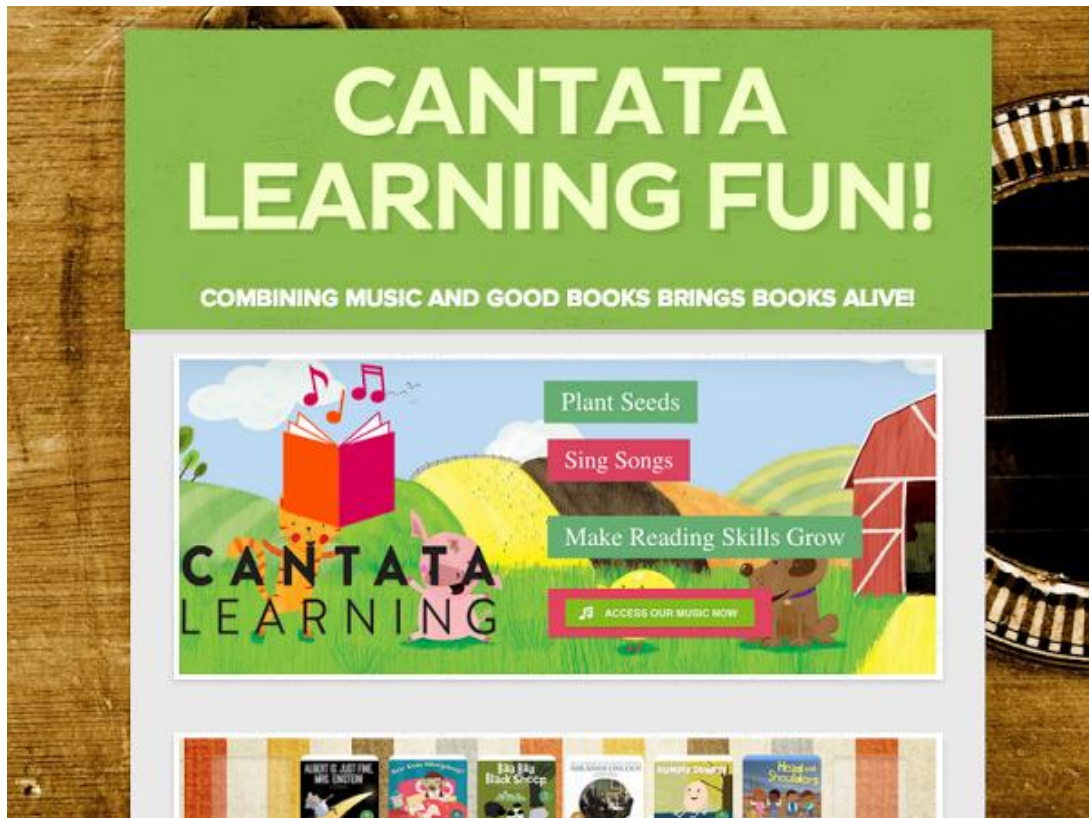
**SoundTrap**...make music online together

<https://www.soundtrap.com>



You can also share the Music Fun Symboloo which contains all of the student music sites and resources.

<http://www.symboloo.com/home/mix/13eOcK1fiV>



This is a Cantata Learning Symboloo webmix that I created for the youngest learners. <https://www.smores.com/9zzon-cantata-learning-fun>  
It will take them to the songs and fun music websites that I shared above.

## Music Apps

### Best Music Apps for Kids, Common Sense Media

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/best-music-apps-for-kids>

### Music Apps, bestappsforkids.com

<http://bestappsforkids.com/category/kids-apps-by-category/music-apps-for-kids/>

### TocaBand

<http://tocaboca.com/app/toca-band/>





**This is the Cantata Learning Symbaloo webmix that includes a link to each titles song.**

<http://www.symbaloo.com/mix/cantatalearningsongs>

## **Organizations With Resources for Music Education**

**National Association of Music Education NafME**

<http://www.nafme.org>

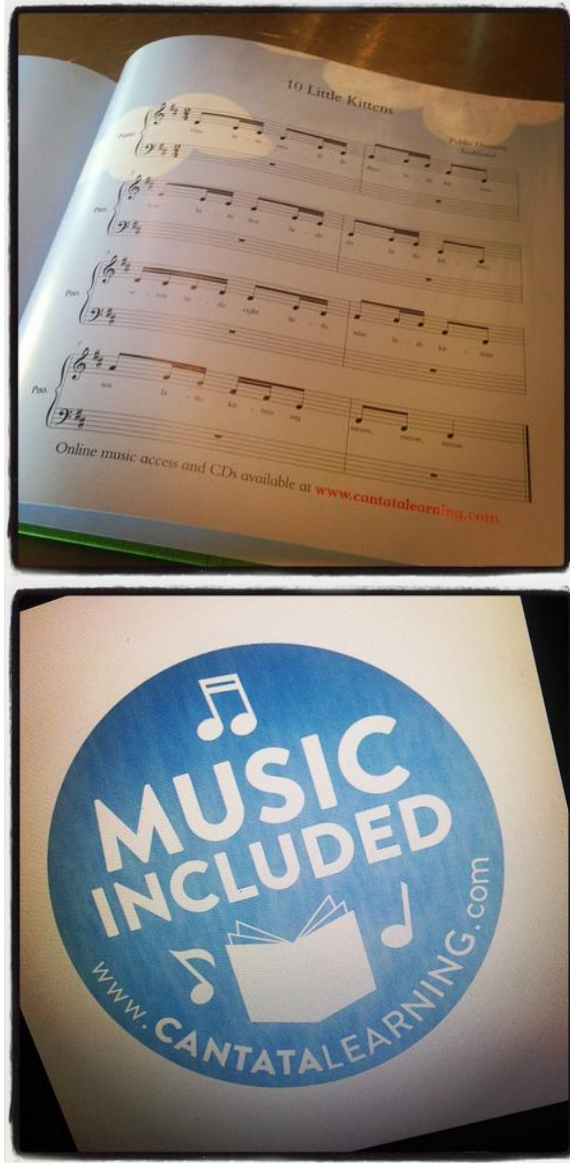
**International Society of Music Education ISME**

<http://www.isme.org>

**National Association of Education for Young Children, Music Section naeyc**

<http://www.naeyc.org/content/music>

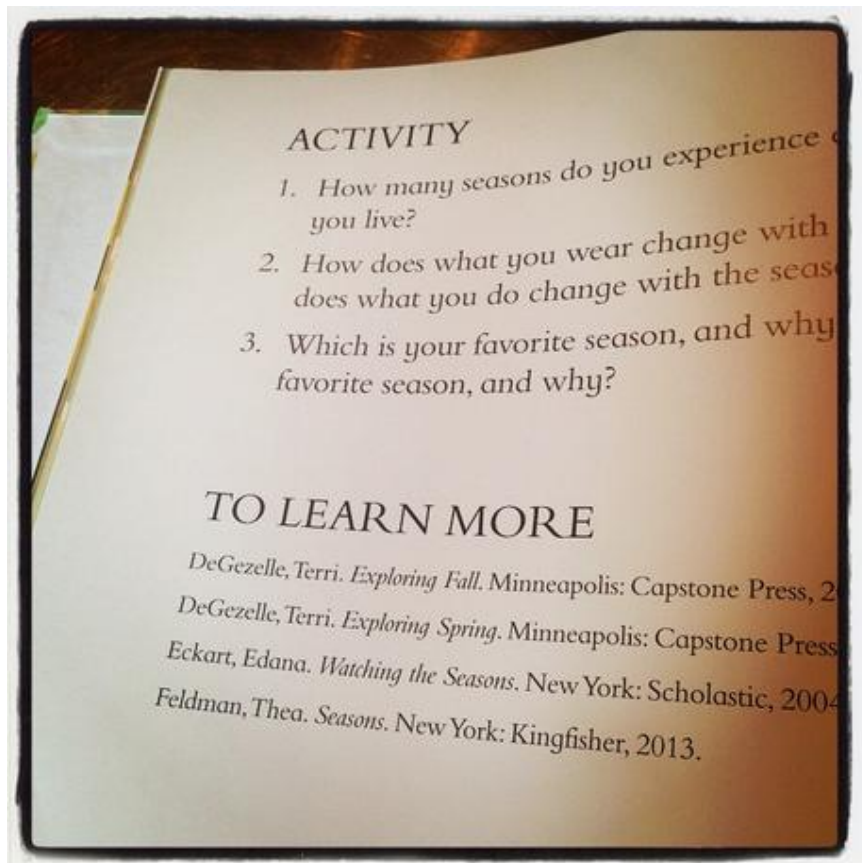
## What are creative and engaging ways to incorporate music into the daily routine?



There are many ways that the Cantata Learning songs and books can be incorporated into the daily routine.

The books can be read and listened to as a class, small group, or individually by students. It would be great fun to listen to one of the Cantata Learning books as a whole class while projecting it up on a screen or interactive board. The students can follow along, while singing, too. On page 23 of each book, the music and words are included. At the bottom, is the Cantata Learning website for online music access. There is also a CD included in the back cover.

And why not get dance involved! Students would love to dance and move to the music from these books.



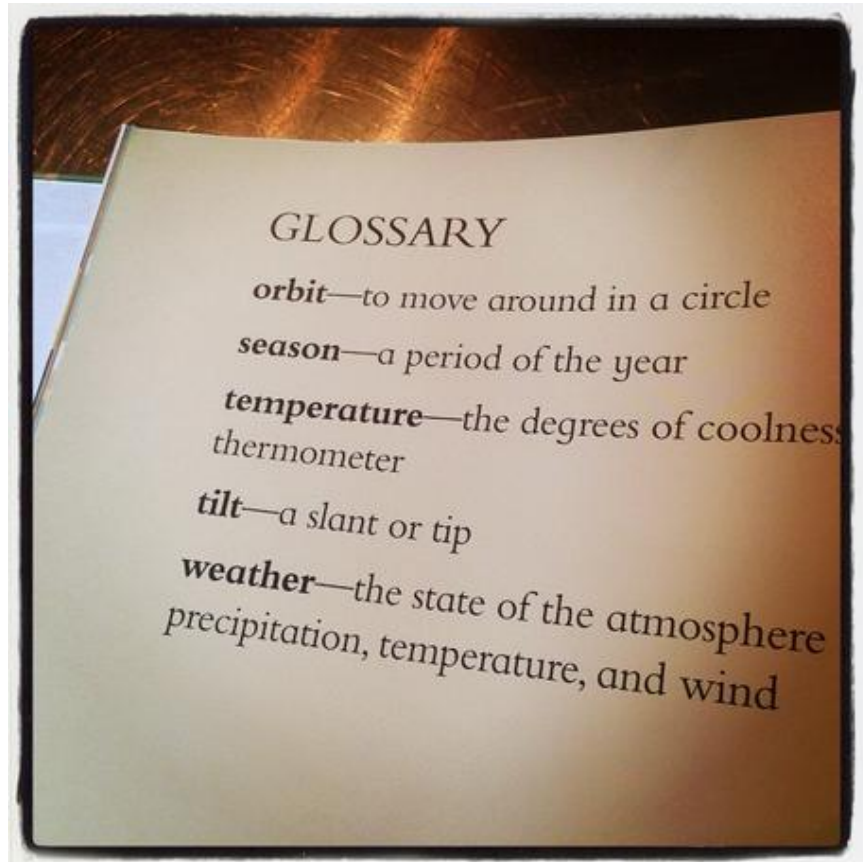
In the back of each book, there is a page that lists *Activities* and *To Learn More*, providing pre- and post- reading questions along with information about other books or resources that allow teachers and students to delve deeper into a topic or theme.

The questions available for use within the *Activity* section, provide teachers and librarians with quick pre-reading prompts to be used with an entire class, small groups, or even individual students. They can be used before, during, or after the books are read and listened to as a way to introduce a topic, drive discussion, and pique interest. They also provide a quick tool for checking comprehension and understanding.

Teachers can extend the learning by asking students to come up with their own questions to answer and share with classmates.



In the *To Learn More* section, Cantata Learning has listed several children's literature titles that go along with each book and curricular theme. This is a great resource for the teacher or librarian who may want to have one or more of these titles available to entice young readers to learn beyond the pages of the story. This not only provides multiple ways to extend the learning, but also encourages students to enhance their own learning experience by exploring new authors, new illustrators, and new ideas on similar topics to the title.



Another important addition in the back is a *Glossary*. This can be used by the students and teachers as the books are being read.... or before and after. The definitions provided are simple and succinct, providing the language to easily explain big words to little ones. The glossary can then be used to tie words into other topics or curricular areas such as science, social studies, history, and others. These words could also become part of a weekly spelling list, word wall, or used as part of a classroom-writing project..



I added QR codes to the back of the Cantata Learning books. When scanned the QR code takes the student directly to the song on the Cantata Learning website. The QR code can be scanned with any device and is very easy for little ones to use.

They are easy to create too! I used the website QR Code Generator but there are a lot of free ones that work just as well.

<http://www.qr-code-generator.com>

You could also use these QR codes in a display within the library or classroom by putting them up for students to scan. This would make a fun interactive bulletin board or listening center.

# PROJECT IDEAS

## **Here are a few more projects that can be done with the Cantata Learning books....**

There are several titles that are based on nursery rhymes, which can be easily worked into the classroom and music curriculum. After the students read, sing, and share the Cantata Learning books, invite to make books of their own based on these classic nursery rhymes. You can even make a collaborative Class Nursery Rhyme book or each student can create their own.

This exercise not only allows children to discover the hidden author within, it also provides opportunities to explore the book making process - how Cantata Learning books are put together, written, illustrated, and even put to music. The possibilities are endless and the experience is rich.

It is always fun to reach out to authors and publishers during this time through Twitter or another form of social media. Invite them to Skype, email, or even visit in-person with your students and discuss the process of creating a book.

Making books is easy using a variety of art supplies and paper, but can also be created electronically as eBooks using easy-to-access digital tools such as FlipSnack or BunceeEDU.

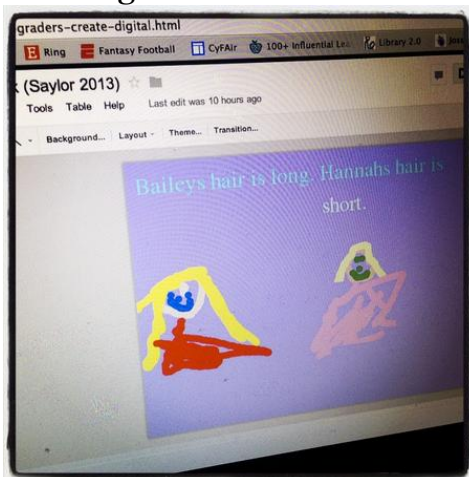
<http://www.flipsnack.com>

<http://www.edu.buncee.com/home>



There are a couple ways to create eBooks using FlipSnack or BunceeEDU.

With these digital tools students create an illustration right in the classroom with art supplies, and then upload those original drawings into FlipSnack or BunceeEDU. You can even use photographs or images from the internet to enhance the digital stories.



Students can use a digital drawing tool, such as [TuxPaint](#), to create the pages of their book, as well.

Students will really love using TuxPaint to retell one of the Cantata Learning stories or be inspired to create their own storybook from a favorite nursery rhyme or song.

The beautiful music also provides a wonderful opportunity to allow children to hone listening skills by drawing what they hear while listening to the Cantata Learning songs and stories. This can easily springboard into a book making project, too. And, once all of the illustrations are complete, they can be “published” using FlipSnack or BunceeEDU.



Extend the learning by rolling right into students creating a [Wordle](#) (word cloud tool) inspired by the words and feelings that come while listening to a music and story.

I like to use Google Presentation as a place to assemble the digital projects, too. Once you have the pages all complete for an eBook, download the Google Presentation as a PDF file. It is then ready to be uploaded into FlipSnack, BunceeEDU, and other digital storytelling tools.

You can read about a project using TuxPaint and Google Presentation to create pages of a storybook on my blog.

<http://vanmeterlibraryvoice.blogspot.com/2013/05/vanmeter-1st-grade-writers-and.html>

You can read about a project using TuxPaint, Wordle, and FlipSnack here:

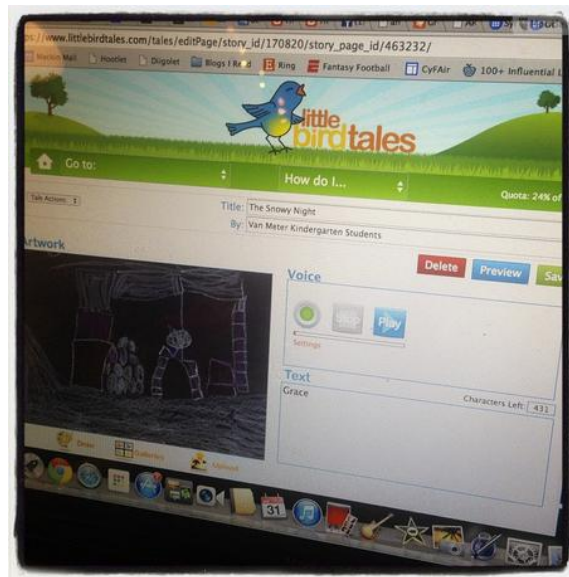
<http://www.tuxpaint.org>

<http://www.wordle.net>

<http://vanmeterlibraryvoice.blogspot.com/2013/05/our-kindergarteners-last-daybut-they.html>

You can view this blog post to see an example of creating an eBook with FlipSnack and the finished product.

<http://vanmeterlibraryvoice.blogspot.com/2013/10/our-4th-grade-authors-and-illustrators.html>

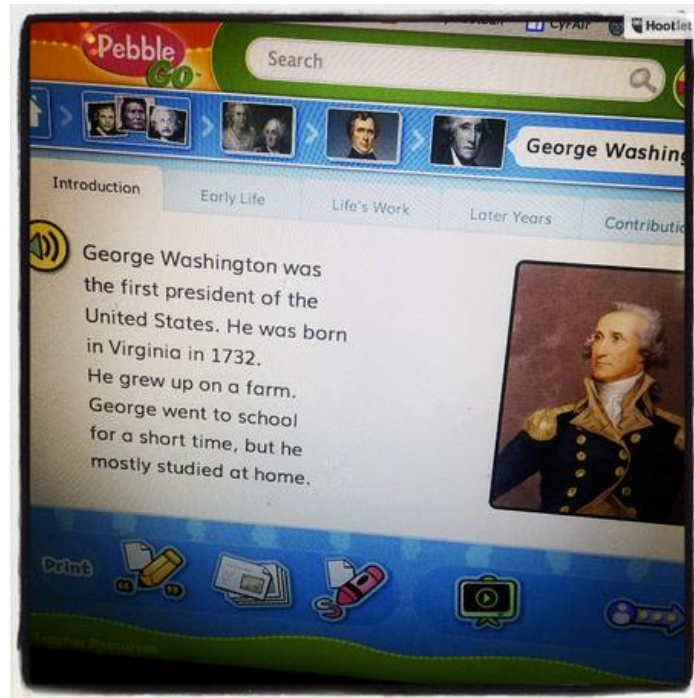


Another wonderful digital storytelling tool is LittleBirdTales, where students can create their own pages including illustrations, text, and voice. The pages can be hand drawn, or photographs and images can be used from the internet. LittleBirdTales also includes an awesome drawing tool, like TuxPaint, within their site. Students can use this tool while creating the pages for the LittleBirdTale.

[https://www.littlebirdtales.com/index/default/errors\[/AUTH\\_REQ/](https://www.littlebirdtales.com/index/default/errors[/AUTH_REQ/)

Once their books are complete, students will be able to share their books with their classmates, teachers, parents, and the community. If the books are digital, you can even share the work of your student authors with the world.

It is also very easy to catalog this digital student work. These beautiful stories can then easily become part of your library collection.



Children love learning about famous people and others who have made an impact throughout history.

There are lots of Cantata Learning titles that are also biographies such as *Albert Is Just Fine*, *Mrs. Einstein*; *He Changed Our Great Nation*, *Abraham Lincoln*; and *Peaceful Leader*; *Martin Luther King Jr.* You can share the books and songs with the students in a large or small group setting or perhaps you can have each students choose a book about a person they would like to know more about.

Students can use the Cantata Learning titles as a starting point for a research project. They can then be encouraged to find other books and resources related to that person or topic. The students can access easy-to-use internet sites and databases, such as PebbleGO Biographies, to research as well.

[http://www.pebblego.com/welcome\\_pgo/biographies.html](http://www.pebblego.com/welcome_pgo/biographies.html)

After they have gathered important information about their person of interest, encourage them to come up with a creative way to share their work. They could create a slideshow with [Animoto](#), a simple photo story with the app [HaikuDeck](#), or even their very own movie using iMovie or another digital tool.

<https://animoto.com/intro/animoto/31?c3apiks=141035&qclid=CJzjufap0MMCFYiCvQod3EoAag>

<https://www.haikudeck.com>



One tool that would fit nicely into this project would be a digital timeline creator. ReadWriteThink has an easy timeline creator that students can use to retell an event in history, chronicle the life of someone famous, or even sequence events from a book or song. You can find it on the ReadWriteThink website [here](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline_2/).

[http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline\\_2/](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline_2/)





How about using augmented reality to help students engage with stories and songs?

We now have tools and apps that let us embed and use augmented reality with our students.

Augmented reality can be embedded book talks, readings, or kids singing the songs. It could be a video or sound clip. Even photographs or projects can be attached to augmented reality.

This is a project that involved embedding AR into print and digital books to create a scavenger hunt for children..... Our First Augmented Reality Scavenger Hunt Through A Fairy Tale eBook With The 2nd Graders. There are different AR tools available for educational use including Aurasma and BlippBuilder.

<http://vanmeterlibraryvoice.blogspot.com/2013/12/our-first-augmented-reality-scavenger.html>

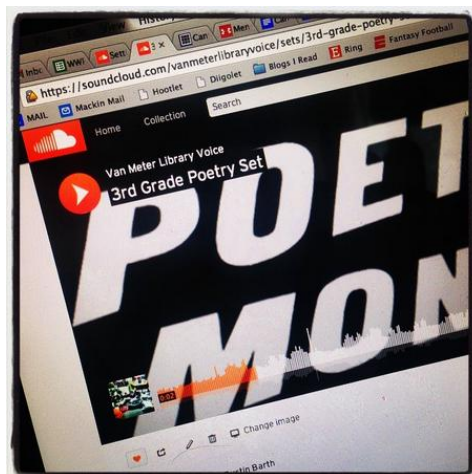
<http://www.aurasma.com>

<https://blippar.com/en/builder>



Two more digital tools that I want to share are FlipGrid and SoundCloud. You can use [FlipGrid](http://flipgrid.com/info/) (available online and in an app) to allow students to easily share book critiques, story retellings, or even the singing of lyrics through video. You can even capture them creating new words to the songs that they all love.

<http://flipgrid.com/info/>



[SoundCloud](https://soundcloud.com/stream) (available in app or online) allows students to record their own voice as they sing and read the books. It is a simple podcasting tools that allows users to create their own channel to store sound clips or podcasts.

<https://soundcloud.com/stream>

SoundCloud is a nice digital tool to use as students read and sing aloud. It provides ways for you to share these podcasts with other students and parents, too.



This is a Smore, an online digital newsletter, of these Cantata Learning Notes.

<https://www.smores.com/t9u83-cantata-learning-teaching-notes>

You can use this and share with your school community.

# Genre and Key Instrumentation of Each Cantata Learning Title

You can check out the genre and key instrumentation of each title in the Google Document below. It contains an extra connection for each too.

This information will be very helpful in making connections to the curriculum and children with each book.

## Cantata Learning Season 1 Books

### **Albert Is Just Fine, Mrs. Einstein!**

Genre: Electro Pop

Key Instrumentation: Rhodes electric piano, synthesizer, bass synthesizer, electronic drum kit, vocoder

Extra: Synthesizers can be used to create new sounds or to replicate different instruments. You can even run your voice through a synthesizer (this is called a vocoder).



### **Are you Sleeping?**

Genre: Folk

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, bells, synthesizer

Extra: Bells are a percussion instrument usually made with metal. Bells can be struck using a mallet or hammer.





## **Baa Baa Black Sheep**

Genre: Folk

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, electric piano, congas, shaker

Extra: A shaker is a percussion instrument that contains small beads.

Percussionists move shakers to the beat in order to add rhythm to a song.



## **The Barnyard**

Genre: Rock

Key Instrumentation: piano, electric guitar, slide guitar, bass guitar, acoustic drums

Extra: A slide is an object placed upon the strings of a guitar to change the pitch. Slides are used in many different genres of music: Blues, Country, Rock, Gospel, and Bluegrass



## **The First Lady of Civil Rights: Rosa Parks**

Genre: Pop Rock

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, organ, bass guitar, drum kit

Extra: The pipe organ was the most complex machine built before the industrial revolution.



## **He Changed our Great Nation: Abraham Lincoln**

Genre: Bluegrass

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, upright bass, snare drum, violin

Extra: Fiddle is another name for the violin. Modern violins are made up over 70 pieces of wood.



## **Head and Shoulders**

Genre: Bluegrass

Key Instrumentation: bass guitar, snare drum, synth horns, hand claps

Extra: Did you know you can use your hands as a percussion instrument? If you clap together in a group in rhythm it's like having a section of drums.



## **Hickory Dickory Dock**

Genre: Folk

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, clock, drum kit

Extra: The oldest guitar-like instrument is 3500 years old.



## **Humpty Dumpty**

Genre: Folk

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, bells

Extra: Folk songs tell stories about all types of things. If you wrote a song, what would it be about? What story would you tell?



## **It's Ecology**

Genre: Folk

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, organ, bass guitar

Extra: Harmony is when you hear multiple pitches at once. It can be used to create pleasant sounds or scary sounds.



## **Jane Goodall and the Chimpanzees**

Genre: Pop Rock

Key Instrumentation: electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drum kit, hand drums

Extra: A percussion instrument is any instrument where the sound is generated by striking, shaking, or rubbing the surface to create noise.



## **Marie Curie and Her Discovery**

Genre: Pop Rock

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, hand drums, shaker

Extra: The most common bass guitars have 4 strings tuned to the notes E A D G.



## **Mary Had A Little Lamb**

Genre: Bluegrass

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drum kit

Extra: Mary Had A Little Lamb was the first thing recorded by Thomas Edison on his invention the phonograph in 1877.



## **Nothing Cooler Than a Dinosaur**

Genre: Rock

Key Instrumentation: piano, bass guitar, electronic drum kit

Extra: Down-tempo refers to music with a relatively slower beat.





## **Oats and Beans and Barley Grow**

Genre: Bluegrass

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drum kit, hand claps

Extra: You can use multiple guitars on the same song to get a fuller sound.



## **Oh! Susanna**

Genre: Bluegrass

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drum kit, banjo

Extra: The banjo is traditionally used in folk, country, and bluegrass settings; but can be used for all musical genres. Can you tell the difference between the banjo and the guitar?



## **Old MacDonald**

Genre: Country/Bluegrass

Key Instrumentation: Acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drum kit

Extra: Certain song might make you want to dance. Dancing is a fun and healthy way to get exercise. First try tapping your foot to the beat of the song.



## **Our First President: George Washington**

Genre: Traditional

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass, snare drum, flute

Extra: Flutes can be created from many different materials such as: bone, wood, glass, ivory, plastic, resin, brass, silver, gold and platinum.



## **Peaceful Leader: Martin Luther King Jr.**

Genre: Folk

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, strings

Extra: People who build and repair guitars are called Luthiers.



## **Row, Row, Row Your Boat**

Genre: Folk

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, piano, organ

Extra: The piano was originally called the “piano forte” because it could be played quietly and loudly. The name was eventually shortened to piano, which means soft.



## **Seasons Come and Seasons Go**

Genre: Rock

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, congas, shakers

Extra: The bass guitar is a guitar with bigger strings so it can play lower notes.

Can you tell the difference between the bass guitar and the bass?



## **This Old Man**

Genre: Folk/Bluegrass

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, accordion, drum kit, shaker, jaw harp

Extra: The accordion was invented in Berlin in 1822.



## **Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star**

Genre: Folk

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, tambourine, chimes

Extra: Wind chimes can be used as percussion instrument by stroking your hand across a set of hollow tubes.



## **Two Little Blackbirds**

Genre: Folk

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, bass guitar, snare drum

Extra: Drummers can use as little as one drum to make the rhythm track for a song. Can you hear the drummer using the snare drum to create the beat?



## **Visit the Planets**

Genre: Rock

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, electric guitar, synthesizer, bass guitar, drum kit.

Extra: Synthesizers can create sounds that remind us of outer space. Do you hear the synthesizer?



## **Way Out in the Middle of the Sea**

Genre: Rock

Key Instrumentation: marimba, bass guitar, electronic drum kit

Extra: You can use vocals to support rhythm of a song by repeating certain words over and over to the beat.



## **What's the Weather Outside?**

Genre: Rock

Key Instrumentation: piano, bass guitar, electronic drum kit

Extra: Background vocals are the extra voices behind the lead singer.



## **Who Can Fly?**

Genre: Rock

Key Instrumentation: piano, bass guitar, slide guitar, guiro, drum kit.

Extra: The guiro is a hollowed out percussion instrument with notches on one side and is stroked with a stick.



## **10 Little Kittens**

Genre: Bluegrass

Key Instrumentation: acoustic guitar, upright bass, drum kit

Extra: The upright bass (also called the string bass and the double bass) is the largest member of the string family.





# **Cantata Learning Season 2 Books**

## **Camels Close Their Noses: Desert Animals**

**Genre:** Spaghetti Western

**Key instrumentation:** Electric guitar, acoustic guitar, electric slide guitar, electric bass, drum kit with brushes used on the snare. Lots of little extra fun sounds- rattle when talking about the rattle snake, banjo.

**Extra:** This has the sound of the deserts of Texas. Wood blocks used to sound like horses.

## **The Swift Gazelle Can Run Quite Well: Grassland Animals**

**Genre:** World

**Key instrumentation:** horns, hand drums, shekere, lots of various percussion, keyboard, electric bass, soprano sax solo, electric guitar

**Extra:** This was produced sound like the grasslands of Africa. Since this song talks about lions and zebras- both found in South Africa and West Africa, it has South African and/or West African Music influence in this song. Has some similar rhythm patterns that Fela Kuti used.

## **The Polar Bear and Penguin will Never Meet!: Polar Animals**

**Genre:** World

**Key instrumentation:** acoustic guitar, fretless bass, shaker or cabasa- kids could make shakers and play along

**Extra:** Sound of the Aleut (Native People) drum in the song, whale call at beginning

## **Where Birds and Monkeys Play: Rainforest Animals**

**Genre:** World

**Key instrumentation:** guitar, lots of percussion, electric bass

**Extra:** Influenced by the Garifuna's music (people of Belize). Garifuna people use lots of different types of percussion instruments, but one that would really excite the kids is the use of turtle shells.

## **Autumn: Leaves Fall from the Trees!**

**Genre:** World

**Key instrumentation:** marimba, guitar, bass, lots of fun percussion instruments the kids can learn about such as the guiro.

## **Spring: Raindrops Fall Almost Every Day!**

**Genre:** Rock

**Key instrumentation:** guitar, keyboard, electric bass, drum set

**Extra:** Fun funky number

### **Summer: Hot Days Out in the Sun!**

**Genre:** Rock

**Key instrumentation:** saxophone and other horns, drum set, guitar, electric bass

**Extra:** Hand claps after the words “thunder claps”

### **Winter: The Coldest Season of All!**

**Genre:** Folk

**Key instrumentation:** jingle bells, acoustic guitar, bass, snare drum (played with brushes)

**Extra:** There is a vibraphone sound that is to give the impression of cold and ice.

### **Brush Your Grizzly Bear Grin**

**Genre:** Tin Pan Alley, Trad Jazz

**Key instrumentation:** washboard, tuba, acoustic guitar, banjo, accordion

**Extra:** So many fun extra sounds, slide whistles, wizzbang .... this song is in 6/8 time which kids can have fun trying to conduct in. Everything including the kitchen sink would be fun to play along with this song. Jug bands, jugs and wizzbang washboard based instruments on youtube...

### **Healthy Foods Make Your Body Go**

**Genre:** Rock

**Key instrumentation:** guitar, bass, drum set

**Extra:** The drummer is using a technique called “cross sticking” on the snare drum. Explaining what a snare drum is and that it may have come from the African drum “Brekete” drum or the Ottoman Empire, or as this website says the 1300s “tabor”

drum.<http://www.drummuffler.com/history-of-the-snare-drum.php>

### **You Take a Bath**

**Genre:** Boogie Woogie

**Key instrumentation:** guitar, drum set, bass

**Extra:** This song is influenced from boogie woogie music which is influenced by blues - lots of fun history.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boogie-woogie>

### **Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands!**

**Genre:** Jazz

**Key instrumentation:** guitar, upright bass, hi hat and snare, organ

**Extra:** Kids could learn the difference between a “swing” feel and a “straight” feel. The rhythm feel the drummer is playing on the open hi hat

is a good example of a “swung” feel. Most kids probably don’t even know what a “hi hat” is.

### **Circle: A Cookie or the Sun in the Sky**

**Genre:** Folk

**Key instrumentation:** acoustic guitar, frame drum, electric bass, organ

**Extra:** The frame drum is in the shape of a circle.

### **Rectangle: A Flag or a Paper Bag**

**Genre:** Americana/Pop

**Key instrumentation:** banjo, acoustic guitar, electric bass, drum set

**Extra:** History of the banjo- Appalachian, slaves, first banjos were made from gourds. Gut strings- kids think that is icky creepy and some of them even think that’s cool. All string instruments were made from animal innards- fiddles etc.

### **Square: A Pizza Box or a Checkerboard**

**Genre:** Pop

**Key instrumentation:** pizz’d fiddle, organ, drum set

**Extra:** The beat/rhythm is influenced from Argentinian Tango music. “Pizz” is short for Pizzicato which is a musical term derived from Italian but universally used to describe the technique for using your fingers to pluck the strings rather than “Arco” which means “to bow” the string. Learning about bows, horsehair, parts of the bow- the part at the end is called the frog.

### **Triangle: A Slice of Pizza or a Mountain Peak**

**Genre:** Folk

**Key instrumentation:** acoustic guitar, organ, bass

**Extra:** This song is in 3/4 time (waltz time) which is cool because there are 3 sides in a triangle. kids could dance a waltz in the shape of a triangle. “Cross sticking” snare drum is used in this song as well.

### **The Rude Moose**

**Genre:** Jazz

**Key instrumentation:** guitar, upright bass, piano, drum set, clarinet

**Extra:** Again, can talk about jazz- history, characteristics, this is “swing” walking bass lines.

### **People Who Help Animals**

**Genre:** Rock

**Key instrumentation:** electric guitar, bass, drum set, keys

### **People Who Help at School**

**Genre:** Rock

**Extra:** electric guitar, bass, drum set, keys

### **People Who Help in My Neighborhood**

**Genre:** Rock

**Key instrumentation:** electric guitar, bass, drum set, keys

### **People Who Help Keep Me Healthy**

**Genre:** Rock

**Key instrumentation:** acoustic and electric guitar, bass, drum set

**Extra:** The intro is an acoustic guitar but right after the intro is the electric guitar- a good time to compare the sound between the two.

### **How Do We Listen?**

**Genre:** Pop/Zydeco

**Key instrumentation:** accordion, fiddle, upright bass, drum set, acoustic guitar

**Extra:** Learn about the Cajuns, Louisiana,

### **I'll Share**

**Genre:** Pop

**Key instrumentation:** hand claps, keys, guitar, glockenspiel, bass, drums

### **Let's Clean Up!**

**Genre:** Pop/Zydeco

**Key instrumentation:** accordion, mandolin, upright bass, drum set, acoustic guitar

**Extra:** Learn about the Cajuns, Louisiana

### **The Bear Went Over the Mountain**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** banjo, cymbals, guitar, bass (percussion on a drum kit but not whole drum set)

### **Happy and You Know It**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** banjo, upright bass, drum set, guitar

### **Itsy Bitsy Spider**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** fiddle, upright bass, drum set, guitar

### **I've Been Working on the Railroad**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** banjo, fiddle, upright bass, drum set, guitar

**Extra:** Swung train beat feel

### **Kookaburra**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** electric bass, guitar, drums,

**Extra:** This is reggae feel done in more of an Americana style. Talk about Jamaica

### **No More Monkeys**

**Genre:** Marimba Pop

**Key instrumentation:** marimba, drums- tom toms, fiddle

### **Where is Thumbkin?**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** guitar, snare drum, bells/ glockenspiel,

**Extra:** Marching drum beat on snare drum. Can learn about marching bands, civil war history

### **Wheels on the Bus**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** banjo, upright bass, drum set, guitar

### **The Barnyard Song**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** banjo, upright bass, snare, jaw harp

**Extra:** The jaw harp! It's very cool has awesome history- Asian and Eastern European cultures had this. Early American settlers played this.

### **The Alphabet Song**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** fiddle, upright bass, banjo, drum set

### **Bingo**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** fiddle, guitar, drums, upright bass



### **One, Two, Buckle My Shoe**

**Genre:** Indie folk rock with a reggae feel

**Key instrumentation:** drums, electric bass, acoustic guitar, vibraphone

**Extra:** The strumming pattern of the guitar on the offbeats, along with the arpeggiated bass line helps give this song an island feel. The drums almost sound like hand drums because of the way drummer is playing the toms.

### **Down By the Station**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** fiddle, banjo, drums, upright bass, guitar

**Extra:** Banjos are originally an African instrument brought to the U.S. with slavery. The drumbeat on the snare drum is often referred to as a “Train Beat” which is cool since this is a train song.

### **Farmer in the Dell**

**Genre:** Americana

**Key instrumentation:** fiddle, banjo, \*washboard\* drums, upright bass, guitar

**Extra:** Washboard percussion played with brushes.

### **From Caterpillar to Butterfly**

**Genre:** Pop

**Key instrumentation:** piano, guitar, electric bass, drums

**Extra:** The chorus of this song plays with dotted rhythms and syncopation. 2 against 3 rhythm

### **From Seed To Apple Tree**

**Genre:** Pop

**Key instrumentation:** piano, guitar, electric bass, drums (open hi hat during verses)

### **From Seed to Flower**

**Genre:** Rock

**Key instrumentation:** piano, electric guitar, electric bass, drums, tambourine

### **From Tadpole to Frog**

**Genre:** Pop

**Key instrumentation:** piano, guitar, electric bass, drums, guiro

**Extra:** Fun froggy swampy percussion songs.