

# The Banana Rap

## Listen and Appraise Step 4

The Banana Rap by Jane Sebba

### Listening

Play the song, find and move to the pulse. Use the on-screen questions (see below) as a focus. Scroll through the questions when you are listening to the song, talk about them after listening. The answers are below.

- Do you like the song?
- What can you hear?
- What is the style of this music?
- How is the song put together?

### Appraising

After listening to the song, answer the on-screen questions, discuss the song and what you can hear in it. Encourage the use of correct musical language when responding.

The detailed answers below will provide you (the teacher) with more than enough information to use flexibly with children of all abilities. You may not use all the information given but it will equip you with the necessary musical knowledge and understanding.

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#### Information about the Song

The Banana Rap is an action rap that teaches children about the interrelated dimensions of Pulse, Rhythm and Pitch.

#### Do You Like the Song?

*It doesn't matter if you like or don't like a song or a piece of music. Think about the reasons why you do or don't.*

#### What Can You Hear?

Ideas for listening include:

- The vocal line: how many singers? Male/female? *Male voice - narrator, voice of the flea, voice of the monkey, voice of the elephant. Monkey noises and elephant noises.*
- The backing/accompaniment: how many instruments? Which ones? *Drum kit and bongos.*

- Which instruments plays the solo? *There are no solo instruments in this song.*
- Is there a hook? Yes: "...bananas at the top of the tree".
- The texture: is it thick, thin or inbetween? Are there many layers of sound, or just one/two? Are there many voices singing/instruments playing, or just one/two?  
*Gets thicker as more sounds come in and thinner as some drop out.*
- The tempo: is it fast, slow or inbetween? *Medium tempo, constant.*
- The dynamics: is the music loud, quiet or inbetween? Is it the same throughout or does it vary? The dynamics are *constant, inbetween.*

### **What is the Style of this Music?**

1. Is it Pop/Rock/Blues/Gospel/Ballad/R&B/Rap/Soul? *This song is a Rap which means the style is Hip Hop. Can you and the children find other examples of this Style of music? There are other examples in the Scheme - see Hey You! and it's supporting songs.*

### **How is the Song Put Together?**

What is the structure/form/shape of the song?

The structure of the song is:

- A narrator and the conversation between characters, a story is told as the song unfolds.