



Reminder: Performance assessments should be adapted to your individual classroom and contextualized based on your students' cultural identities, interests, skills, and pre-learning.

Grades 3-5

Are You a Composer?

Context & Prerequisite Skills

Students and teachers should have some background in musical composition

Essential Questions

What authentic and open-ended questions are students exploring in this assessment?

How are music, math, and story connected?

How can I use my knowledge of musical composition to create something new?

How can my knowledge of fractions help me create technically accurate music compositions?

Learning Goals

When students complete the process to create the output, what skills and knowledge will they be demonstrating? Remember - application and transfer of high-leverage skills are a hallmark of performance assessments.**

Understanding fractions

Understanding beats and measures

Music composition

Critical thinking

Creativity

Communication skills

Reading

**While students will be demonstrating these skills in completing the task, it is not necessary to formally assess all of them.

Performance Assessment Quality Criteria

- Align to high-leverage learning goals (competencies, learning targets, standards, transferable skills, etc)
- Be open-ended and relevant to the real world
- Require application and transfer using higher-order thinking
- Be fair and culturally responsive
- Outline clear criteria for success in a rubric
- Result in original products, performances, or solutions

Original task created by Eileen Cronin, Quayisha Ferguson, Jennafir Enck.



Task Summary

What is the authentic and relevant scenario that you are asking students to engage in to complete this task?

Music can be a very important part of storytelling, especially when listening to audiobooks. The opening is very important to help the listener understand a little about what the mood of the story, what the characters are feeling, or what it feels like in the story setting. For a lighthearted story, you might use quick notes that are at a higher octave. Stories that are set in the rain might have music with a gloomy sound. Your task is to create the first twenty bars of a musical composition to be used at the beginning of a recording of an audiobook storybook. This composition should be connected to the overall message of the story, the setting, or the characters. Your reflection at the end will show that you understand the connections between music, math skills, and storytelling.

Quality Process

What is the flexible quality process learners will engage in to produce the output?

1. Listen to some audiobooks for children with the class. Pay close attention to the music in the background. Take notes.
2. Choose a story book that you like.
3. Experiment with different instruments in the music room. Choose one that you would like to use for you composition.
4. Create twenty bars of music in any time signature you want. Pay close attention to how you use quarter notes, half notes and whole notes. How does it enhance that part of the story?
5. Write your composition on the templates provided.
6. Share your composition and story with a peer. Get feedback.
7. Make edits if needed.
8. Record your composition and your story.
9. Reflect on how your composition connects to the story you chose and how math (time signature and fractions) helped you bring more life to the story.

Quality Product

What original product or solution will students produce as a result of this assessment?

- ◇ Composition is in standard time signature and includes at least quarter notes, half notes, and whole notes.
- ◇ Musical notation is accurate.
- ◇ Recorded story and music is practiced.
- ◇ Reflection explains how composition connects to the message, plot, or characters in the story.
- ◇ Reflection answers the question “How are music, math, and story connected?”

Resources & Materials

What do all students need to have access to in order to complete the task?

Musical instruments (ideas: drum, piano, keyboard, recorder, xylophone)

Audiobooks

Recording equipment

Music Notation Templates

