## Sound Stories Round the Year

Folk Tales, Fables, and Poems for the Music Classroom
By KAREN FARNUM SURMANI & ANNA WENTLENT

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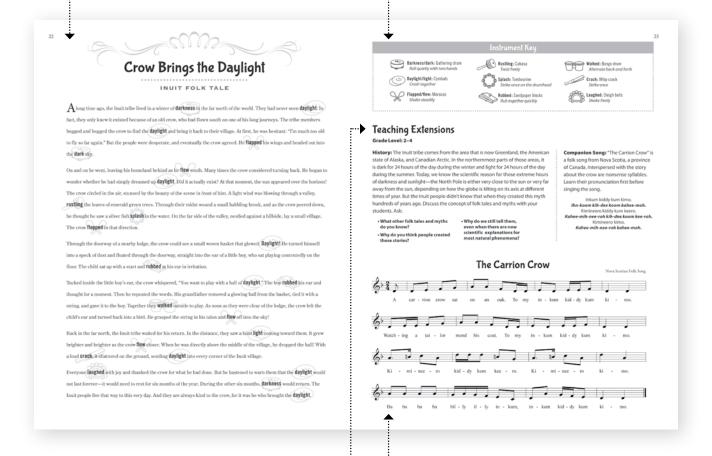
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## How to Use this Book

Sound Stories Round the Year was designed to develop reading and music skills in the elementary music classroom by adding instrument playing and sound exploration to well-known literature, including folk tales, fables, and poems. Each lesson includes the following:

- 1. Folk Tale, Fable or Poem: Read the work before adding instruments, which should be played at the same time as the highlighted accent words. For convenience, each story is also included as a PDF on the Data CD, allowing you to easily display it on a whiteboard or print student copies.
- **2. Instrument Key:** When you're ready to add instruments, study the instrument key as a class. The instrument illustrations and highlighted accent words correspond directly to those in the accompanying story. Pay particular attention to the playing instructions in italics.



- **3. Teaching Extensions:** If class time allows, expand the lesson with one or two learning extensions. Each one is clearly labeled by subject area: History, Language Arts, Drama, Music, or Art.
- **4. Companion Song:** Teach the accompanying song to your students by rote. Each one was chosen for its thematic and cultural connections to the literature.

# Sound Stories for Autumn



## The Migration of the Grey Squirrels

BY WILLIAM HOWITT (1792-1879)

When in my youth I traveled throughout each north country,
Many a strange thing did I hear, and many a **strange** thing to see.

But nothing was there pleased me more than when, in autumn brown, I came, in the depths of the pathless woods, to the grey squirrels **town**.

There were hundreds that in the hollow boles of the old, old trees did dwell,

And laid up store, hard by their door, of the sweet mast as it **fell**.

But soon the hungry **wild swine** came, and with thievish snouts dug up

Their buried treasure, and left them not so much as an acorn cup.

Then did they chatter in angry mood, and one and all decree,
Into the forests of rich stone-pine over hill and dale to **flee**.

**Over hill and dale**, over hill and dale, for many a league they went, Like a troop of undaunted travelers governed by one consent.

But the hawk and the eagle, and peering owl, did dreadfully pursue;
And the further the grey squirrels went, the more their **perils grew**.

When lo! To cut off their pilgrimage, a broad stream lay in view.

But then did each wondrous creature show his cunning and bravery; With a piece of the pine-bark in his mouth, unto the **stream** came he.

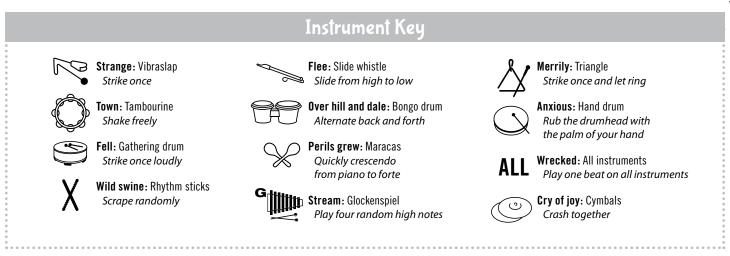
And boldly his little bark he launched, without the least delay; His busy tail was his upright sail, and he **merrily** steered away.

Never was there a lovelier sight than that grey squirrels' fleet; And with **anxious** eyes I watched to see what fortune it would meet.

Soon had they reached the rough mild-stream, and ever and anon I grieved to behold some bark **wrecked**, and its little steersman gone.

But the main fleet stoutly held across; I saw them leap to shore;

They entered the woods with a **Cry of joy**, for their perilous march was o'er.



## Teaching Extensions

### Grade Level: 3-5

**Music:** Take time to learn the natural rhythm of this poem before introducing it to your students. Within the classic language is a thrilling story of a troop of squirrels who dash off into the night to save their store of nuts from a pack of thieving swine! Emphasizing the correct words will help your students understand and latch onto the story.

The instrument sounds should be played at the *end* of each stanza, so as not to interrupt the rhythm of the spoken poem. The underlined words that have been chosen—and their respective instrument sounds—represent the main idea of each stanza. In fact, the instrument sounds can be played on their own as a short piece of program music.

**Companion Song:** Sing "Land of the Silver Birch." Try keeping the beat with a few instruments from the story. As a class, discuss the timbre of each instrument and how the mood of the song changes depending on what is being played.

## Land of the Silver Birch

Canadian Folk Song Words adapted by Karen Farnum Surmani

