

Little Loksi also offer a perfect opportunity for developing student solo work, both with drama (pantomime, puppetry, or creative movement) and instrumental motives. These and other openings make *Little Loksi* particularly well-suited for extended classroom work or expanding into an Orff-based performance. Embedded within the story are Chukri's retelling of the race between their grandfathers, the tortoise and the hare (itself a fun potential sidebar), and a beautiful depiction of nightfall and moonrise in the woods. Lying on his back, "Little Loksi had never seen the sky in such majestic beauty before," provides a perfect invitation for modal music and small-group movement compositions. The book concludes with "an animal song and dance," including descriptive movement language perfect for exploration and inspiration—even an enticing invitation to incorporate a weaving circle

as the animals dance around the spider's web.

Not a folk tale, *Little Loksi* is actually loosely inspired by the author's process as he recovered from an automobile accident and the diverse ways people assisted him along the way. Nevertheless, in message, language, and structure, the story reflects a folk tale spirit, honoring the collaborators' Oklahoma Chickasaw roots in a beautifully accessible and inspiring way. *Little Loksi* is a wonderful book to treasure, share, and bring to life together—one that illustrates the impact we each can have on one another! ■

ROXANNE DIXON is an elementary music teacher in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, where she seeks to inspire her students to be "their best selves" through shared creative experiences. Roxanne holds a master's degree in music education with an Orff concentration from the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota. She serves on the editorial board of *The Orff Echo*.

CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW

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Reviewed by **Kelly A. Grace**

One Minute till Bedtime

Edited by Kenn Nesbitt
Illustrated by Christoph Niemann
Little, Brown, 2016



Who would think a book intended for bedtime would have a place in the Orff Schulwerk classroom? *One Minute till Bedtime: 60-Second Poems to Send You off to Sleep* is an anthology of 143 children's poems compiled by

former Children's Poet Laureate (awarded by the Poetry Foundation) Kenn Nesbitt and featuring contributions by notables such as Judith Viorst, Lemony Snicket, and Naomi Shihab Nye. This collection is page after page of witty, thought-provoking, and just plain silly poems that, though intended for bedtime, are certain to inspire your students to sing, say, dance, and play!

A favorite in the collection is a four-line gem by Linda Knaus. "For Pete's Snake" is a

humorous poem about a twelve-foot snake that needs six new pairs of shoes. From a music teacher's perspective, it is the perfect vehicle for introducing and/or reinforcing eighth-note pairs, perhaps even with whimsical rhythm cards depicting a snake wearing shoes. Also on the topic of shoes is "Me and My Feet" by Donna Marie Merritt. The title piques students' curiosity, and the playful text about favorite footwear will hook them. The poem is sixteen beats long (four measures of eighth and quarter notes, ti-ti, ti-ti, ti-ti ta)—*I like slippers/For a snooze*—and early elementary students can easily memorize it and bring it to a drum circle.

Eileen Spinelli's "Stuffed Animal Collection" finds instant success with younger students while also allowing space to expand in an Orff Schulwerk lesson. Students will delight in bringing this rhyming, rhythmic poem to life through a dramatic interpretation of animal voices as they pretend to be at the zoo sighting lions, hippos, and zebras (to name a few). The eight lines in 6/8 meter lead easily to four musical phrases of body percussion that can then transfer to barred instruments to improvise ascending and descending C-pentatonic melodies. My students enjoyed adding two measures of alternating mallets on G and a leap to end on C (do). The creative process does not have to end with barred instruments, however. Encourage your students to explore the characteristics and

personalities of the animals through movement improvisation or, optionally, through small percussion to give each animal a special sound. Let them explore the timbre of wrist bells, guiros, wood blocks, hand drums, and finger cymbals to discover and interpret *A giraffe and a monkey/a gray kangaroo*.

In addition to curating this collection, Kenn Nesbitt penned a special poem to begin each of its seven sections, and Christoph Niemann's amusing, contemporary illustrations add to the enjoyment and potential of this book. A night sky depicted by a salt shaker sprinkling flecks of stars into the sky, a father and son hammer going for a walk, and an armadillo wearing a pillow set the stage for collaboration with your art teacher that might even evolve into a performance piece.

One Minute till Bedtime: 60-Second Poems to Send You off to Sleep is a collection to reach for over and over again. This book could become a treasured staple in many Orff Schulwerk classrooms. ■

KELLY A. GRACE taught elementary music on Long Island, New York. She earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Duquesne University and a master's degree in music education from Queens College, City University of New York. Kelly has completed three levels of Orff Schulwerk Teacher Education and is a past executive board member of the Long Island Chapter of AOSA. She is currently an adjunct at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York.

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