

# Exploring Literature and Language with Instruments

Developed by: Cynthia “Miss Cynthia” Elek  
Artform(s): Drama, Music, Storytelling

## Extensions on the Lesson

**After watching the video and/or reading the story *Max Found Two Sticks*, here are some ideas to extend the lesson further:**

- Find other objects students can play with their sticks, at home or in the classroom (e.g. floor, table, door, cooking pot). Remind them to be careful when pretending an object is a drum. Encourage them to describe what is different about the objects. What are they made of? Are they hard to play? What sounds do they make? Do they sound like any of the instruments Max plays?
- Create new words or phrases to play, based on vocabulary that students are learning (e.g. numbers, colors, names of animals). Perform *Max Found Two Sticks* again—with the same instruments and objects—but have the sticks play the new vocabulary.
- Identify books with repetitive phrases and play the phrases with the sticks, using the floor or a found object or an instrument as the “drum.”
- Find a book that sequences a series of animals or objects, each with its own sound (see the following bibliography). For example, *Rattletrap Car* sequences car parts, and *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything* sequences articles of clothing. Instead of using sticks, use the objects from the story to play the rhythms.

## Other Resources

**Many pre-K and kindergarten picture books incorporate percussive words or objects. Although published several decades ago, many are still classroom favorites and can be found in local libraries or ordered online. A small sampling includes:**

- Aardema, Verna, *Who’s in Rabbit’s House?*, Pied Piper (Dial Books), New York, 1977
- Gollub, Matthew, *The Jazz Fly*, Tortuga Press, Santa Rosa, CA, 2000
- Mayr, Diane, *Run, Turkey, Run!*, Scholastic, New York, 2007
- Root, Phyllis, *Rattletrap Car*, Candlewick Press, Cambridge, MA, 2001
- Souhami, Jessica, *The Leopard’s Drum: An Asante Tale from West Africa*, Little, Brown and Company (Canada) Ltd., 1995 [reissued in paperback, 2006]
- Squires, Janet, *The Gingerbread Cowboy*, Laura Geringer, New York, 2006
- Williams, Linda, *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*, HarperCollins, New York, 1986

## Evaluation/Assessment

- Can students sequence the events in the story?
- Are students building fine motor skills by handling sticks and instruments?
- Are students able to coordinate the playing and speaking of multi-syllabic words?
- Does playing part of the book text increase student comprehension of the story?