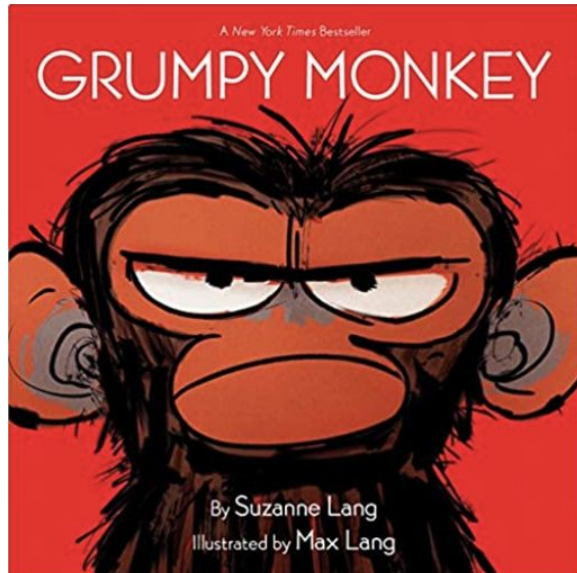


Great Plains Orff Chapter Book Review
May 2021 - Claire Lux
Grumpy Monkey



Grumpy Monkey
By Suzanne Lang
Illustrated by Max Lang

“One Wonderful Day Jim Panzee woke to discover that nothing was right.”



This book is about a Monkey who woke up in a terrible mood for no good reason. His friends try everything to cheer him up but nothing works! I feel like many of our students can relate to waking up in the morning and feeling grumpy just like Jim. Luckily by the end of this silly story Jim begins to feel a little better.

The song above is in a La Based Pentatonic that follows the same melody as *Who Has Seen The Wind* but instead of it being in 4/4 the melody is in 6/8. I have used this book as a way to help my students learn E on recorder. You can also have students play this melody on xylophones since recorders aren't being allowed in many schools this year.

This book also has lots of opportunities for unpitched instruments to be used. Overall this story makes a serious topic a little more lighthearted for students and the illustrations are absolutely beautiful. Last spring I used this book to teach a recorder lesson virtually through zoom and my students loved it.