

So Why?

A Recorder Improvisation Lesson for Grades 4 or 5

*I use a 1st Grade song from *Making the Most of the Holidays*, page 22, by Kriske/DeLelles called, “So Why,” and have adapted it as a 4th grade recorder improvisation.” I have included the lyrics to the “A” section, but not the rhythm/melody.

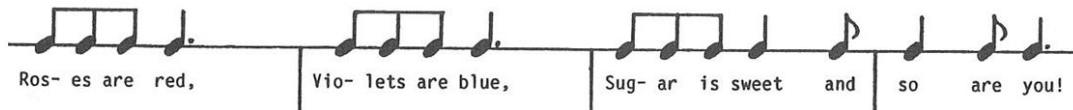


A

I got a card from Mary Lou,
I got a card from Betty Sue.
Today one came from Timbaktu,
So why haven't I heard from you?



B



1. Learn the how to sing the song, “So Why” and speak the B section in AB form. (Sing with G as “Do.”)
2. Play the word rhythm of the B Section on recorder note B. (Each syllable should get a new tonging).
3. Play the word rhythm of the B section on recorder note A.
4. Play the word rhythm of the B section on recorder note G.
5. Begin assigning each measure of the B section to recorder notes B, A, or G. Write letters underneath with a dry erase marker. I tell them that the last word should end on “do” (G) so the song sounds finished. Then play it!
6. Erase, and have students take turns coming up to the board to write a letter name underneath each measure, and play each new created melody as a class.
7. Next, have the students improvise their own order of B, A, and G! Play improvisations together as a large group first, and then ask for volunteers to play alone! Perform in AB form, so first sing “So Why” and then go into improvisation, then “So Why,” then another improvisation, etc.
8. Challenge! If students are ready, have them switch from B, A, and G more often than every measure. Model a couple of good melodies for them first. You could also add more notes, such as low E, low D, or high D.