

**Karyn Lawrence  
Bryan Elementary  
Millard Public Schools**

Sound Story with Modified *Drum Up the Sun* (*New Ensembles and Songs* by Will Schmid)

*Ten Sly Piranhas* by William Wise, illustrated by Victoria Chess

Suitable for K-2

Step 1: Read book to the students. Discuss book.

Step 2: Teach the drum ensemble:

Score

## Drum Up the Sun

Will Schmid  
Karyn Lawrence

♩ = 112

Rattle

Medium Drum

Low Drum

High Drum

Beat and a beat and a beat and a beat and a  
Drum and we drum and we  
Hold then play Riv- er riv- er  
Riv- er riv- er Now we drum!

**Rattle:** Play on the word beat. Students should say/think beat and a beat to keep from speeding up or slowing down.

**Medium Drum:** Students say/think words. Practice on laps first. “Favorite” hand starts. Transfer to drums.

**Low Drum:** Students say/think words. Practice on laps first. “Favorite” hand starts. Transfer to drums. “River, river” should be a soft muffled sound with flat hand/ no bounce.

**High Drum:** Students say/think words. Practice on laps first. “Favorite” hand starts. Transfer to drums. “River, river” should be a soft muffled sound with flat hand/ no bounce.

Step 3: Practice drum ensemble, giving each student a chance to practice each part.

Step 4: Read the story with the drum ensemble students playing. Have the group stop after each number of piranhas is counted down.

Step 5: Ask students what instruments (from a given set of pre-chosen instruments) should represent each of the piranhas. For example: guiro, triangle, sandblocks, claves, tick tock block, stir xylophone, hand drum, tambourine, cabasa, wood block. Choose students to represent the piranhas with chosen instruments. Those students should sit in a row.

Ask students what kind of instrument sounds like the SNAP of the crocodile at the end...maybe the whip? The child with the whip has to wait a long time for his or her turn!

What instrument could make the gulp and gurgle? Maybe the ratchet and vibraslap? Or log drum and flexitone? Choose two students to play those instruments.

Step 6: Read story again with the drum ensemble, gulp/gurgle and piranha instruments. Drum ensemble should stop before the gulp and gurgle with the piranha instruments play.

Be sure drum ensemble is secure before beginning to read each time.

At very end, let all instruments improvise for a while before the final cut-off.

Repeat another day with different students playing the drum ensemble and piranha parts.