

STORYTIME IDEAS FOR THE ADVENTUROUS LIBRARIAN

**Action Songs, Rhythmic Reads,
and Dance Party Tips**

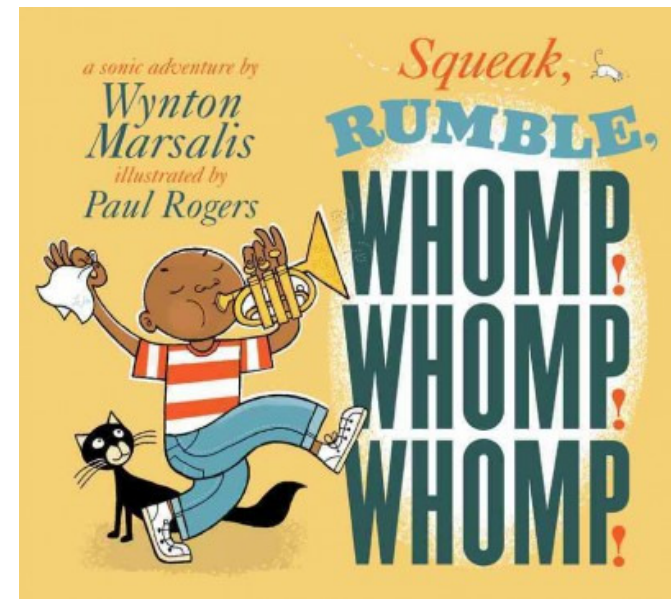
By Sara Meldrum


Body and Vocal Warmups

- Stretches
- Shoulder squeezes
- Posture check
- Face pats
- Prune, Lion, Slap, Slap
- Sirens
- Lip trills

Rhythmic Reads

- Boynton, *Barnyard Dance!*
- Craig, *Dancing Feet!*
- MacLennan, *Chicky Chicky Chook Chook*
- Marsalis, *Squeak! Rumble! Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!: A Sonic Adventure*
- O'Connell, *The Baby Goes Beep*
- Protopopescu, *Two Sticks*
- Webb, *Tanka Tanka Skunk*
- Wheeler, *Jazz Baby*





Action Songs: If You're Happy and You Know It (warmup version!)

- Touch your toes...
- Stretch your arms...
- Jump up high...
- March in place...

Action Songs: See the Little Bunnies

See the little bunnies sleeping until noon

Shall we wake them with a merry tune?

Oh so still

Are they ill?

Wake up bunnies!

Hop little bunnies, hop, hop, hop.

Hop little bunnies, hop, hop, hop.

Hop little bunnies, hop, hop, hop.

Hop little bunnies, hop and stop.

Action Songs: The Banana Song

Form banana, form, form banana (repeat)

(Place palms together over head)

Peel banana, peel, peel banana (repeat)

(Lower arms to sides one at a time)

Shake banana, shake, shake banana (repeat)

(Shake hands)

Go bananas, go, go bananas (repeat)

(Dance crazily)

Action Songs: Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Zoom, zoom, zoom, we're going to the moon

(Brush hands past each other)

Zoom, zoom, zoom, we're going to the moon

If you want to take a trip, climb aboard my rocket ship

(Climb fingers up arm)

Zoom, zoom, zoom, we're going to the moon

In 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, blastoff!

(Count down on fingers while crouching down, then jump up on "blastoff")

- Far, far, far, we're going to the stars...
- Fun, fun, fun, we're going to the sun...

Action Songs: Zin, Zin, Zin

Zin, zin, zin, we're playing violin

(Mime playing the violin)

Zin, zin, zin, we're playing violin

If you come to play with me, we can make a symphony

(Mime conducting an orchestra)

Zin, zin, zin, we're playing violin

- Rum, tum, tum, we're playing kettle drum...
- Whomp, whomp, moan, we're playing the trombone...

(Adapted from Zoom, Zoom, Zoom)

Action Songs: Little Cabin in the Wood

Little cabin in the wood (*Form roof with hands*)

Little girl by the window stood (*Frame face with hands*)

Saw a rabbit hopping by (*Hop two fingers*)

Knocking at the door. (*Knock*)

Help me! Help me! Help!, he said, (*Throw arms up on each "help"*)

I need a place to rest my head. (*Rest head on hands*)

[Original lyric: Or the hunter will shoot me dead!]

Come, little rabbit, come inside, (*Beckon with hand*)

Safely to abide. (*Pet one hand with the other*)

Action Songs: Do As I'm Doing

Do as I'm doing
Follow, follow me
Do as I'm doing
Follow, follow me
If I do it high or low
If I do it fast or slow
Do as I'm doing
Follow, follow me
Do as I'm doing
Follow, follow me

(Choose any simple movement—such as rolling hands, jumping, clapping—and vary the height and speed as indicated by the lyrics.)

Action Songs: Human Rainstorm Activity

Storm builds:

- Brush
- Snap
- Clap
- Slap knees
- Stamp

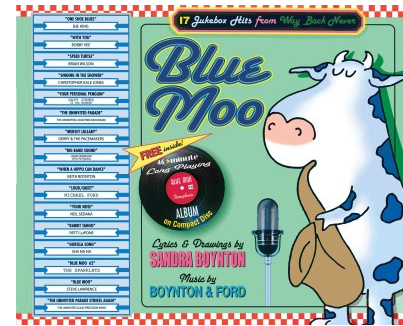
Storm recedes:

- Stamp
- Slap knees
- Clap
- Snap
- Brush

Dance Party Discography

- Sandra Boynton, *Blue Moo: 17 Jukebox Hits from Way Back Never*

- “Blue Moo ‘62”
- “Rabbit Tango”
- “The Uninvited Parade Strikes Again”
- “When a Hippo Can Dance”



- Laurie Berkner, *Under a Shady Tree*, “Drive My Car”
- Caspar Babypants, *This Is Fun!*, “Bounce Your Baby”
- Joe Scruggs, *Late Last Night*, “Late Last Night”
- Johnette Downing, *The Second Line*, “Rhythm in the Scarves”
- The Beatles, *Please Please Me*, “Twist and Shout”
- *The Ultimate Party Survival Kit* (various artists)
 - Bob Kames, “The Chicken Dance”
 - Ray Anthony, “The Hokey Pokey”