

The Farmer in the Dell

The musical notation is presented in two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 6/8 time signature. A chord symbol 'F' is placed above the first measure. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'The farm - er in the dell, _____ the farm - er in the dell,' are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'Hi - ho the der - ry oh, the farm - er in the dell. _____'. Chord symbols 'F', 'F', 'C7', and 'F' are placed above the corresponding measures.

Lyrics:

1. The farmer in the dell, the farmer in the dell.
Hi-ho the derry oh, the farmer in the dell.
2. The farmer takes a wife, the farmer takes a wife.
Hi-ho the derry oh, the farmer takes a wife.
3. The wife takes a child, the wife takes a child.
Hi-ho the derry oh, the wife takes a child.
4. The child takes a nurse, the child takes a nurse.
Hi-ho the derry oh, the child takes a nurse.
5. The nurse takes a dog, the nurse takes a dog.
Hi-ho the derry oh, the nurse takes a dog.
6. The dog takes a cat, the dog takes a cat.
Hi-ho the derry oh, the dog takes a cat.
7. The cat takes a rat, the cat takes a rat.
Hi-ho the derry oh, the cat takes a rat.
8. The rat takes the cheese, the rat takes the cheese.
Hi-ho the derry oh, the rat takes the cheese.
9. The cheese stands alone! The cheese stands alone!
Hi-ho the derry oh, the cheese stands alone!

SINGING

Early grade students should play and sing the traditional circle game of Farmer in the Dell many times. Older students who have the tune firmly established in their inner hearing will have fun with this singing game.

Half of the class is sitting in a straight row on chairs or on the floor. The rest of the class sits facing them. The first three students on chairs have their names put into the song.

"There's Tom with Betty and Sue, There's Tom with Betty and Sue, Heigh Ho the Derry Oh, There's Tom with Betty and Sue."

After all the students can sing this easily, putting the names in the right places, the other students close their eyes on the "Heigh Ho the Derry Oh" phrase.

The students whose names are in the song will change seats during this phrase of the song. The game occurs as the observing students try to sing the correct names when they open their eyes.

The new singing might go like this: "There's Tom with Betty and Sue, There's Tom with Betty and Sue, Heigh Ho the Derry Oh, THERE'S BETTY WITH SUE AND TOM." Continue with new names as long as the interest lasts among the students.

PLAYING

Have students figure out a way to play this song on the black keys of the piano or black tone bells. This is a pentatonic song, with just five tones.

CREATING

Students can create beautiful vocal harmonies using the individual phrases of Fanner in the Dell as ostinati. Instrumental accompaniment can be added using just two chords. For the key of F, use chords F and C7.

LISTENING

As students arrange the song using ostinati and accompaniment, have them listen to each other and comment on the musicality of the sound. What might be added or changed to make the sound more beautiful? Sing the song in perfect unison. Sing the song using harmony. What do you notice?

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION - Language Arts, Reading, Art

Create a ballad using this tune. Choose a theme such as the Farmer On My Street or The Trucker Down the Road. Write words that will fit the rhythm of the original song. Add instruments to your creation when you are ready to share

Make a book about your ballad, adding artistic interpretation.