

TEACHER'S RESOURCE MATERIAL
to accompany the CD and cassette
'THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE'

for use in elementary grades
following Rick Scott's performance

* Lyrics included *

Please feel free to duplicate this material
for use in classrooms

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For distribution before the performance

* D E A R T E A C H E R S *

My name is Rick Scott and I am an actor, songwriter, musician, father and grandfather. My concerts are based on my experience as all of these. Over the past 30 years my love of music has taken me into many areas of the arts, including instrument making, theatre, radio, film, television and advertising. I choose to work with children to take music out of the mysterious unreachable realm of rock concerts and television videos to bring it home—live—to your gymnasium.

I want to play music WITH your school. I believe everyone has natural musical ability and that there's no right or wrong way to express it.. Our culture tends to glorify singers and musicians when in fact we all have these talents within us. In other cultures the time when an infant begins to use language is the time when he/she is taught to sing. Each of us has our own voice and our own song. My shows and workshops allow us to explore these abilities together. I encourage participation and welcome the children's involvement and enthusiasm. There will be a question period at the end of the show.

My own experience supports the “you can do it too” method of making music. With no formal training I've composed hundreds of songs and performed around the world for almost 3 decades! I am self taught on a four stringed folk instrument called the Appalachian dulcimer which I play upside down and backwards from the traditional technique! I am currently writing a book on my method of dulcimer playing. I have a granddaughter with Down Syndrome and I am Goodwill Ambassador for the Down Syndrome Research Foundation. My ‘Angels Do’ video celebrating children with special needs is played regularly on Ants In Your Pants on Treehouse TV.

You will receive a Study Guide for teachers accompanied by CDS for your music teacher or school library. I hope you will find these useful to extend my performance into the classroom and that they will encourage you to use music to augment your curriculum. There are a number of projects outlined which I hope you will find enjoyable, including how to make and play a Whimmydiddle, an Appalachian toy which is also a percussion instrument. Please feel free to use my music for any school purpose and to duplicate any of my printed materials for your own use. I will have the following tapes/CDs with me for sale the day of the show for \$10 per tape and \$15 per CD, taxes included:

The 5 Elements – English & Cantonese with Rick and Harry Wong -

2004 NAPPA Gold Award, 2004 Parents' Choice Approved

Making Faces – Best Children's Release, 2001 West Coast Music Awards

Philharmonic Fool – Juno nominee, Children's Music Web Award Winner

Rick Around The Rock – featuring “Eh Canada” - cassette only

The Electric Snowshoe – 55,000 sold – Parents' Choice Approved

Letter writing seems to be a fading art and I encourage children to mail me letters. I If your class writes to me at the postal address below I will write back--sometimes it takes a while as I enjoy correspondence with children all over the world. I welcome your comments and suggestions and would be delighted to hear your ideas and feedback. I also give song writing workshops for children and Music As A Second Language workshops for teachers who think they aren't musical. Thank you for the opportunity to make music with you and your students.

Dulcimerrily,

RICK SCOTT

Classroom activities based on
THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE

QUESTIONS BASED ON YOU'RE HERE

1. Make a list of all the places named in this song and find them on a map: Northwest Territories, Ontario, Chilliwack
2. Find your town on the map.

QUESTIONS BASED ON THE ARTICLE SONG: ATHEANA

1. What is an ARTICLE in English grammar?
A part of speech used before nouns
2. What are the two other meanings of the word "article"?
An article in a newspaper or an article of clothing
3. What are the three articles? HINT: you'll find them in the title of the song.
"A" "the" and "an"
4. What is ONOMATOPOEIA? Give some examples of onomatopoeic words?
A word which imitates the sound it is describing: whisper, buzz, hum

QUESTIONS BASED ON WHIMMYDIDDLE

A Whimmydiddle is a toy which is also a musical instrument that is simple to build. Email rick@rickscott.ca to request instructions for building and playing a whimmydiddle by fax.

1. This song is based on puns - what is a PUN?
ANSWER: Using words where the original meaning is playfully confused
2. See how many examples of puns or "plays on words" you can find in this song.
"Tried to put a cap upon my knee"; "had a lock of hair but had no key"; "grew some corn upon my toes"; "tried to eat it with a fork in the road"; "the crook in my elbow committed a crime"
3. What do you think "how many ways can you play that log" means?
Rick's dulcimers is made out of wood - which of course originally come from a tree cut into logs. Rick is asking "how many ways can you play the Dulcimer?"
4. Name a letter in the alphabet that does not begin with its own letter. "W".

QUESTIONS BASED ON MY FRIEND HAS THE BIGGEST EARS IN THE WORLD

1. This song is a good example of HYPERBOLE. Look this word up in the dictionary to find out what it means. ANSWER: Hyperbole is exaggeration.
2. Give some examples of imaginative exaggeration from the song.
Draw a picture of one of these.

ANSWER: "Biggest ears in the world / afraid that he might blow away /wrapped them around us with room to spare/he makes them like wings and we all fly away on our own holiday".

THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE

Page 2

QUESTIONS BASED ON SPIKE McCOOL

This song was written in a song writing workshop at Carnarvon Elementary in Vancouver. It 's a classic tale of an outsider who finds a place in his community through an extraordinary occurrence. It's one of Rick's most requested songs.

1. Name three things about Spike McCool that make him an unusual puppy dog. He was cool, he played video games, he wore a black leather jacket and sunglasses and a rainbow mokawk hairdo. Draw a picture of Spike McCool.
2. Why does Spike go ("mosey") over to the school? ANSWER: He was lonely for the kids there. What does "mosey" mean? To amble. ANSWER: To walk without hurrying, perhaps with your hands in your pockets. Mosey around your classroom.
3. When Spike gets to school, what happens? ANSWER: He wanders into the middle of a basketball game. What do the kids do when they see Spike on the court? ANSWER: They scream his name. Spike thinks they're screaming because they're happy to see him.
4. How do we know the kids are excited about the game? ANSWER: They're stamping their feet, and chewing on their pencils, on their fingernails and on each other!
5. How does Spike become a hero? Omajar Ramalama DingdongTwistoff, the 7 foot centre from the other team, trips over him and loses the ball. Spike's tail sends the ball into the hoop to score the winning basket. He becomes team mascot and leads the cheer IS THAT A COOL MUTT OR ?

QUESTIONS BASED ON BALLAD OF THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE

A ballad is a "narrative" song: a song that tells a story.

1. What is this story about? Rick and his musical instrument called a dulcimer.
2. Where do dulcimers originate? Northeast USA, Kentucky, Tennessee, N. Carolina Find this area on the map.
3. What do you learn about the dulcimer from verses 2 & 3? It's made of wood, has 4 strings, is easy to play and makes a sweet sound like angels singing. Draw a picture of Rick's dulcimer.
4. What instruments do the kids in the song suggest when they try to guess the dulcimer's name? A guitar, a mandolin, and a piano. Find a picture of all three and see how they look compared to the dulcimer. Which one was a "silly" guess? A piano . Can you tell that by the way Rick says "a piano"?
5. Find the Yukon Territories on the map. It's way up in the north of Canada, where there's lots of snow. Canada has 10 provinces and 2 territories. Can you name them and find them on the map?
6. What name did a boy in the Yukon make up for the dulcimer? "THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE". A snowshoe is a flat, paddle-like shoe that lets you walk across the top of deep snow rather than sinking in. Find a picture of a snowshoe and compare it to your drawing of the dulcimer and you'll see what a wonderful and appropriate name it is. Rick liked the name so much, he wrote this song about it and named the album after it too!

THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE

Page 3

7. Write your own narrative song. Change the nouns and verbs in Rick's song to create your own story, starting with: Hi, I'm BLANK and I'd like to BLANK...etc. It can be a true story or one you make up. Have fun!

ACTIVITY BASED ON SIMON SEZ

SIMON SAYS is a game that's popular all around the world. Take turns leading the class in playing a game of Simon Says. Follow the song's words for the actions then make up your own things Simon says to do.

QUESTIONS BASED ON OOHLAHEY

The title of this song comes from the expression OOH LA LA, which is a funny way to say WOW in French that is sometimes used in English as well.

1. What other French words or phrases do you hear in this song? What do they mean?
Parlez-vous francais (do you speak French?) Venez, venez, encore une fois
(Come on, one more time)
chantez avec moi (sing with me). So in English it means COME ON, SING ALONG!
2. What does Rick mean when he says "get out my snowshoe and play a little tune"?
He means he'll get out his dulcimer and play it.
3. Rick wrote this song specially to end his school shows. What in the first verse tells you that? He says, "pretty soon the (school) bell starts ringing telling me I've got to stop singing, so that's my show, that and this goodbye."
4. This song talks about the Rick's appreciation for music. How do we know he loves music? He says, "music is the best" and that he likes to play it "with a friend"; that music can "make you happy when you have the blues" or when you're missing someone who's far away from you.
5. Write a hello song and/or a goodbye song making up new words to music from a song you like.
EXAMPLE: (sing to ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT) Hey, hi, say hello, here I am again.

LYRICS FOLLOW.

All songs by Rick Scott.

YOU'RE HERE

1. You might come from the Northwest Territories
you might come from Ontario
you might come from Chilliwack, Jack
well, if you do, I think you should know
you're here and I'm so glad you are
you're here so let's just see how far
oh oh oh you're here, oh oh oh you're here

2. You might have gone to school (cool)
you could have stayed at home
you might be in Tent #3
but then you wouldn't get to hear my poem
you're here and I think that's so fine
you're here so let's just do some time
oh oh oh you're here, oh oh oh you're here

3. You might be the Prime Minister of Canada
you might be a snowflake
you might be the one who invented ice cream
well if you are, I think you should take a big bow
applause, applause, applause
you're here, I guess it's just because
oh oh oh you're here, oh oh oh you're here

4. You might think the world's wonderful
you might think the world stinks
you might think if you so much as blink
you'll sink into the drink and become extinct
no, you're here and we've got a minute or two
you're here, so let's just do the do
oh oh oh you're here, oh oh oh you're here
oh oh oh you're here

SNEAKERS

1. Stronger than a rocket, faster than a rabbit
funky as an old sardine
when I'm on the land I move so grand
in the water, looky, I'm a submarine

CHORUS: I've got my sneakers on my feet
I've got my sneakers all around the world
I've got my sneakers, they're so complete
I've got my sneakers give them a whirl

2. I've been watching papa when he picks them up
he's got to turn his face away
next thing I know I'm down at the shoe store
going to take my sneakers away

CHORUS: Oh no, I've got my sneakers...

3. Now all of you grownups living in the world
don't you drop that bomb today
cause if you do we're taking off our shoe
and the smell is going to blow you away

CHORUS: I've got my sneakers...

4. You can call them high-tops
you can call them joggers
that's just the runaround
'cause everywhere you go if you look down low
you'll see everybody's on a common ground

CHORUS: We've got our sneakers...

THE ARTICLE SONG (ATHEANA)

Good day, children. In today's English lesson we shall be learning about THE ARTICLE. Ah, the article! Those sometimes mischievous yet indispensable words that greatly assist in the creation and completion of our friend, the sentence. There are only three words in the English language which are qualified to be articles and those three words are: A...AN...THE... no more, no less.

Of course, the article of which I speak is not to be confused with an article in the newspaper, or an article of clothing such as the common sock. However, it could become an endless source of amusement to discover...

1. I'm a little article
just a little particle
of an ordinary kind of word
when I go past it's so darn fast
it's almost like I never was heard
no doubt about it, you couldn't do without it
when using any other kind of word
with my A...AN...THE...AN...A

2. I'm so adorable, it really is deplorable
that you could say a thing without me
it really does make sense to use me in a sentence
easy as it can be
I'm smart at the start, I dribble in the middle
and then I've got to onomatopoe
and it's time to change my diaper

A-THE-AN-A (come out and play)
A-THE-AN-A (come out and play)
A-THE-AN-A (come out and play)
won't you come out and play

3. What can I say, I'd love to stay
but I really, really, really got to go
what's that sound, I believe it's a noun
playing on the old banjo
it's my duty, rooty-toot-tooty
to follow it wherever it goes
with my A...AN...THE...AN
A...AN...THE...AN...
A...AN...THE...AN...
AAH!

WHIMMYDIDDLE

1. Tried to put a cap upon my knee
had a lock of hair but I had no key
let me say this clear as fog
how many ways can you play that log?

Whimmydiddle, whimmydiddle
hey diddle the cat's got a fiddle
but you and I got a whimmydiddle to play

2. Grew some corn upon my toe
tried to eat it with a fork in the road
Q-R-S all came to tea
how come W starts with D?

Whimmydiddle, whimmydiddle
come on give me that crazy rhythm
that you know only a whimmydiddle can do

3. Got a bridge across my nose
hammer in my hand and nails on my toes
crook in my elbow committed a crime
stole my watch so I took my time

Whimmydiddle, whimmydiddle
hey diddle diddle the cat's got a fiddle
but you and I got a whimmydiddle to play

HALLOWEEN HOODOO

1. Did you ever think you'd see a ninja
crawlin' across the floor
did you know that little Pierot
is going to turn around the world once more?

CHORUS: Keep your eyes wide open, your back to the wall
watch out for little things that start to crawl
or you might see such a beautiful sight
it just makes you want to sing all night
Hidee hidee hi, ho do ho de oh de oh de
ooh wah ooh, it's a Halloween Hoodoo

2. Who's that coming? Why it's Charlie Chaplin
out on the town with some clowns
and isn't that funky? They brought along a monkey
to turn it all upside down

CHORUS: Keep your eyes wide open...

3. I just saw a spaceman dancin' with a bumblebee
a strange old man came right up to them
and said how come you won't dance with me?

CHORUS: Keep your eyes wide open...

4. You might think my song is over
I'm here to tell you it's not
there's a princess who has got a dragon
and when he breathes it gets real hot

so if you want to come you better bring some
cause everybody's got their own
but if you're scared or you think it's too weird
maybe you should stay at home

Hidee hidee hi, ho dee ho dee oh dee oh dee
ooh wah ooh, it's a Halloween Hoodoo
it's a Halloween Hoodoo

MY FRIEND HAS THE BIGGEST EARS IN THE WORLD
by Rick and Jorg Scott

CHORUS: My friend, my friend
has the biggest ears in the world
'til north is south and east is west
my friend and his ears are the best

1. They are so huge
well one day we were playing
we got hit by a terrible storm
he wrapped his ears around us
with room to spare
we were laughing, we were dry
and we were warm

Repeat CHORUS

2. They are so awesome
that they flap in the wind
and we're scared that he might blow away
but he makes them like wings
and we all climb on board
fly away on our own holiday

Repeat CHORUS

Cause he's my friend, he's my best buddy
and he has the biggest ears in the world
'til north is south and east is west
my friend and his ears are the best

SPIKE McCOOL

1. Spike McCool didn't go to school
cause he was too young and he was too cool
he spent all day in the video arcade
in his black leather jacket and his pitch black shades
is that a cool mutt, or what? (3 times) ...BUT...

2. Spike McCool is his own master
with his rainbow mohawk and his ghetto blaster
he'll save any kid from any big jerk
who tries to make him do his homework
is that a cool mutt or what? (3 times) ...BUT...

But Spike got lonely when school was in
and there was no one to notice him
staying cool gets kind of hard
when all the kids are playing in the schoolyard

3. So Spike moseyed over to the old brick school
a little bit nervous but still acting cool
when suddenly everyone was shouting his name
cause he was in the middle of a basketball game

Only 3 seconds left and the score was tied. The opponents had the ball.
Kids were chewing on their fingernails, kids were chewing on their pencils,
kids were chewing on other kids! They were screaming and stomping their feet
and hollering and Spike thought, "Hey, I guess they're happy to see me!"
So he just stood there, looking cool, with his mohawk and his leather jacket
and pitch black shades, when suddenly, Omajar Ramalamadingdong Twistoff,
the 7 foot centre from the opposing team, came thundering down the court
with fire in his eyes and steam streaming out of his sneakers,
when he tripped over Spike and lost the ball...

That ball bounced off Spike McCool's tail
which was wagging so hard the ball began to sail
up and over through the hometown hoop
the crowd went wild and started to whoop
as the buzzer rang and the game was won...
Spike McCool was the favourite son!

4. Now Spike's a hero on the kids' sport scene
'cause now he's the mascot of the basketball team
and he's leading the school in a brand new cheer
and at every game here's what you'll hear
is that a cool mutt or what? (6 times) SAY WHAT? SAY WOOF!

THE BALLAD OF THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE

1. Hi, this is Rick and I want to say
a few words about the instrument I play
it's a strange looking thing and that's for sure
and what it's called is a dulcimer

2. Now hundred of years before you or me
from the hills of Kentucky and Tennessee
from the southeast part of the U.S.A.
the folks down there needed something to play
like a bagpipe... like a guitar... had to be real easy

3. So they tried to find a thing that they had that was good
what they had was trees, what they had was wood
so they carved it down and put on four strings
yes my friends, it was a beautiful thing
looked like a leaf... sounded like angels singing
made people dance... I had to have one

4. So me and my dulcimer went Canada way
and naturally we just started to play
and we made that sound that a dulcimer does
but folks weren't sure just what it was
I tried to tell 'em... it's a music machine
they thought it was something else

5. Then one day up in the Yukon
the dulcimer and I were putting a show on
I asked the kids if they knew its name
and all the answers were all the same
a mandolin?... Nope. A guitar? Nope.
a piano?... What?!?

6. Then a kid in the back raised up his hand
he stood right up and made a stand
and he yelled out something too good to be true
"I know what it is! IT'S AN ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE!"
Sure!... why not?... I guess that's what it is!

7. So that's the story of the electric snowshoe
and maybe you've learned a thing or two
so next time the story I'll be tellin'
is about my intergalactic watermelon
just kidding... I have to go now... y'all take care!

SIMON SEZ

1. Simon says to look up
Simon says to look down
Simon says put the best smile on
that you got in town
Simon says to look out
Simon says never give up
Simon says keep a good thing
'til you've had enough
that's what Simon told me
and now I'm telling you

2. Simon says snap your fingers
Simon says clap your hand
Simon says that's the best beat
you can be in my band
Simon says to say YEAH, oh say it again...
oh, I believe that someone said YEAH
and old Simon didn't tell you to

3. But Simon says point your finger,
Simon says scratch your head
Simon says now ain't you glad
that you did what Simon said
that's what Simon told me
and now I'm telling you
Simon says close your eyes,
now open them up
ah you see you're looking at me
and you shouldn't be cause
Simon didn't say so, see? (ha hah)

4. Simon says touch your ear,
Simon says touch your nose
Simon says touch your funny bone
everywhere it goes
Simon says to look out
Simon says never give up
Simon says keep a good thing
'til you've had enough
that's what Simon told me
and now I'm telling you
that's what Simon told me to do

OOHLAHEY

1. Pretty soon the bell starts ringing
telling me I've got to stop singing
so that's my show... that and this goodbye
music is the best, say it again
especially when it's with a friend
and if you don't mind that's what you are to me.

So let's just have one more song
it doesn't matter what planet you're on
come on, come on, sing it one time with me

CHORUS: Ooh la la la ooh la la hey-eh, hey-eh
Ooh la la la ooh la la hey-eh, hey-eh

2. So try some music if you've got the blues
or happy, with nothing to do
or thinking 'bout someone who's so far away
it will keep you warm when you're feeling cold
fix a heart or mend a soul
and if you cut your finger you can sing real loud

Oh what a deal, the sale is on
and it doesn't matter what planet you're from
come on, come on, let's sing it one time for free

CHORUS: Ooh la la la ooh la la hey-ay, hey-ay

3. Well, you know, I never had a chance to go to France
but when I do I know it's going to be a radical thing
they will say, parlez-vous francais?
I'll get out my snowshoe and I'll play
a little tune everybody can sing

So let's just try one more song
sing about the love the of the planet we're on
venez, venez, encore une fois chantez avec moi

CHORUS: Ooh la la la ooh la la hey-ay, hey-ay