

# Joyful Music Literacy for the Upper Elementary Classroom

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This PDF contains supplemental materials for this article published in the October 2023 issue of *Southwestern Musician*.

**Page 1: Music Literacy Game Ideas**

**Pages 2–9: Positive Statements About Our Voices (formatted to print & post)**

# Sight Reading Game Ideas

1. Error Detection - Place a known melody on the staff with a few mistakes. Students find errors.

2. Rhythm Only Error Detection - Same as above, but isolating the rhythm of the words, not on the staff.

3. Solfege Only Error Detection - Same as above, but write the solfege names for a known tune without rhythm.

4. Choose An Ending - Show notation for a known song, but leave off the last phrase. Give three final phrase choices and allow the class to choose.

5. Song Cards - Print a known song phrase by phrase or measure by measure on note cards. Individuals or teams put them in order.

6. Disappearing Rhythm or Melody - Students read the entire rhythm or tune once. Upon each repetition, teacher erases a portion, but all still say or sing it.

7. Rhythm or Solfege Statues - A team is chosen. They stand and Teacher gives them a pattern. They arrange themselves AS the rhythms or solfege hand signs. The rest of the class "reads" them!

8. Rhythm or Melody Relay - 2 teams, each individual has a card with a rhythm or melodic pattern. Teacher sings or claps a pattern. Each team's representative races card to teacher.

9. Song Sticks - Very similar to # 5, but write phrases or measures on popsicle sticks. Individuals or teams put sticks in order.

10. Retrograde Challenge - Notation for a song is shown backwards! Could be melodic or rhythmic, putting the last beat first. Class reads it and tries to identify the song.

11. Rhythm Telephone - Class seated in a circle. A student draws a card with a short rhythmic or melodic fragment on it. They turn and whisper it to the next student, and so on.

12. Find a Match - A set of cards with rhythmic or melodic fragments is given out, and within the deck every card has a duplicate. Students must find their match!

13. Improvisation Games - I reserve improv. games for late practice of known rhythmic or melodic elements. Improvisation is absolutely a way of forwarding literacy!





My voice is part of me.



My voice is my own  
instrument.



My voice helps me  
to communicate.



My voice is unique -  
one of a kind!



My voice is made of  
muscles and I can learn  
to use it by practicing.



My voice is growing  
because I am growing.



My voice is versatile - it  
can do many good things.