

THE LITTLE TRAIN OF THE BRAZILIAN COUNTRYMAN – VILLA-LOBOS

Context

The Little Train of the Brazilian Countryman was composed by Villa-Lobos after he had taken a journey on a country train in Brazil. It is a steam locomotive and it has to cross mountains in order to get to its destination.

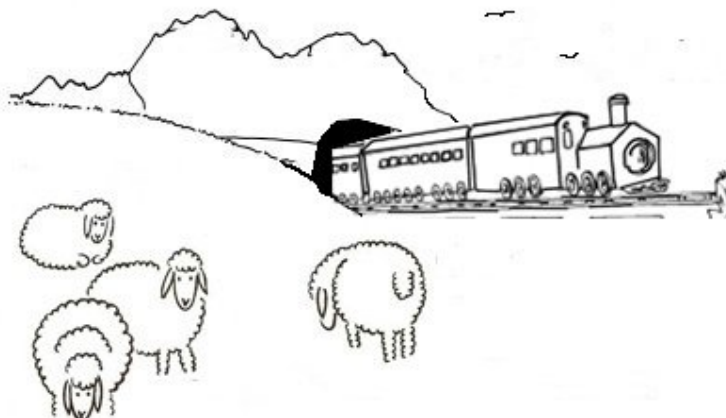
Teaching and Learning

- This is a symphonic poem. It is programme music in which the sounds heard on a train journey are imitated.
- Musical elements brought to the fore include tempo, dynamics, timbre and structure.
- Orchestral instruments are joined by South American percussion instruments such as the guiro, the ratchet, the rattle and the tambourine.
- Words that could be used when describing the music include exciting, realistic, rattly, getting louder or softer, getting faster or slower, chugging, clanking, whistle-blowing
- An outline score of the main tune is written below:

Little Train of the Caipira



Activities for Children



- Ask the children if the train is going at the same speed all the time and how they know that the train goes up a hill.
- Make a human train. The children hold the elbows of the child in front of them. Tell them to call out the things they see and hear on their 'journey' while the music is playing.
- Improvise a train journey, using classroom percussion and the children's voices. Include dissonances (clashing sounds) and glissandi (sliding) as well as some of the following train sounds:

Train sounds (easy)

All a- board! Tff Tff Tff Tff Ss Haaa Shoo

Train sounds (harder)

(whistle) Tch Tch Tuh-tuh Tuh-tuh chi-ka-ta,chi-ka-ta,chi-ka-ta,chi-ka-ta,