ABC of Opera series

ABC of Opera: Classical

Author: Mark Llewelyn Evans
Illustrator: Karl Davies
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Author and illustrator’s websites:
https://abcofopera.com/
http://markllewelynevans.co.uk/
http://www.karlpic.co.uk/

Front cover

Let’s Talk
Introduce the title and the author. Who is the illustrator? What does he do?
Who can we see? Can you guess where this place is? Are there any clues? I wonder who the characters are? Can you remember who the characters are?

Let’s Create
Begin an ABC display & populate with each activity undertaken relating to the book – drawings, paintings, poems, photographs etc

Let’s Draw
Try to draw you and your best friend in the style of Karl Davies.

Inside spread

Let’s Recite/ Sing
Learn the words to the ABC song.
Listen to the song by scanning the QR code.
Can you name the instruments on the page?

Let’s Introduce
Beneath the title of the book is a new character – who do you think he could be? Turn to page 67 and introduce Windy Wolfie.

Let’s Make
Encourage the children to draw or write a pen portrait of themselves following the same pattern as the composers’ descriptors – create a book about us and place on the display board.
Pages 2 & 3

Let’s Read
Read aloud the letter from Professore Peri – do the children remember what happened in the first adventure?
Introduce the Italian vocabulary, practice using gestures to help the children to remember.

The contents page tells us where everything is in the book – on page 6 we will find The Museum, on page 44 is where the Fairytale Opera is situated.

Chapter 1

Pages 4 & 5

Let’s Share
Who has been to a museum? What did you see? What were your favourite exhibits? Where was the museum? Wales? England? In Europe?

Let’s Visit
Go on a virtual museum visit: Virtual Visits - in Lockdown | National Museum Wales, Video | Natural History Museum [nhm.ac.uk]

Let’s Try
Staccato- clap a rhythm, Glissando – sing up and down a scale.

Let’s Discuss
Who the children’s BFF’s are.

Chapter 2

Pages 6 & 7

Let’s Talk
Who has been to London? What did you see there? Who lives in London?

Let’s Make
A card game matching who / what lives where eg The Queen/ The millennium centre/ local landmarks etc

Pages 8 & 9

Let’s Guess
How many windows are there in the palace? More than..? Less than..? An even number or an odd number?
Why is it important to stick together on a visit?

Let’s Find Out
Introduce the museum’s history.
How big is a whale? (about the size of 8 buses)
Let’s Think
Where do you think they are going now? (page 9). How do you think Megan and Jack were feeling?

Let’s Create
A picture map of the United Kingdom – find out where dinosaur bones have been found in the UK.
A digital Jurassic world using an online package – eg paint

Let’s Pretend
Create a mini dinosaur world in the water tough with compost, plants, rocks & plastic figures.

Chapter 3
Pages 10 & 11
Let’s Listen
Read the two pages – what are vaults? Who was the King they met? (Play King George’s song from Hamilton- ‘You’ll be back’.
Who was inside the cabinet? Was he the old friend?
What else can you see in the vault?

Pages 12 & 13
Let’s Create
Try to create a morse code message or a text or email only using emojis. Create manuscript patterns.
Let’s Think
Should Megan have smashed the glass? What could have happened?
What are manuscript papers? (show examples).
Can you see Megan and Jack in the Trunk?
What words do we use when we handle things that can break easily? Fragile, delicate, precious...

Chapter 4
Pages 14 & 15
Let’s read
Pages 14 & 15 where were Jack & Megan going? Who were they going to meet this time? Use the word Fabelhaft.

Pages 16 & 17
Let’s find out
What did the Greeks and the Romans invent? What were the new instruments – can you see them?
Let's create
Make a paper classical wig by twirling paper around tubes/pencils.

Let's learn
Bravi/Grande in Italian, Guten tag/Danke in German.
The musical notes – clap how many beats they are worth.

Let's count
Create some musical maths using musical notes on the interactive whiteboard or small whiteboards.

Pages 18 & 19
Let's share
What are our favourite tunes? Ask the children to hum them.

Let's invent
An inventor is someone who makes something for the very first time – make a new instrument or an item for the classroom.

Let's think
Who was one of Haydn’s pupils? Beethoven has written many sonatas – draw a portrait of your teacher whilst listening to a Beethoven sonata.

Pages 20 & 21
Let's discover
Austria – where is that in Europe? Has anyone been there?
The Sound of Music is filmed in Austria. Find Austria on a map or a globe – how far is it from Wales? The Alps are very high mountains, what is the highest mountain in Wales?

Let's dance
Learn the waltz and dance with a partner.

Pages 22 & 23
Let's describe & paint
What can you see in the picture/illustration? Paint a birds eye view of a town, look for pictures on Google of rooftop views.

Page 24
Let's design
Design a throne for you – think about the patterns and things that would be on it.
Chapter 5
Pages 25
Let’s guess
Why do you think he’s called windy Wolfie? What do you think the instrument is on page 25?

Pages 26 & 27
Read the poem to the children – what can you remember from the poem?
Who else came to meet Jack & Megan? Nannerl- how many of the children have a sister or a brother or both?
Oh dear! What happened next?

Let’s move
Mozart loved to move like a cat – practice moving like different animals. Use the music from Cats the musical for the children to move to.

Page 28
Let’s find out
Where is Vienna and who lived there? What is an Emperor? Look for paintings and pictures of emperors talk about the Romans and find out about roman patterns.

Let’s taste
Many pastries, cakes & biscuits come from Vienna – try to bake or taste some of them.

Chapter 6
Pages 29, 30 & 31
Let’s imagine
If you saw Beethoven, what would you think? How did he become famous?

Pages 32, 33, 34 & 35
Let’s compare
What is the difference between Beethoven & Mozart?

Let’s discover
Find out more about the House of Hasburg.

Let’s learn
Invite someone to teach the children how to sign. Ask the children if they used to watch Mr Tumble – do they remember any of the signs? Encourage the children to sign a few phrases to their friends.
Pages 36 & 37
Let’s describe
What can you see in the picture? What is happening?

Pages 38 & 39
Let’s think
Why did Beethoven saw the piano legs? He wanted to feel the vibrations – imagine being deaf, list the five things that you would miss the most.

Chapter 7
Pages 40, 41, 42 & 43
Let’s investigate
Where do you think Rossini comes from? Are there any clues to help us? Read the poems and let the children guess.

Does Rossini look like Mr Go-compare? He is the author’s brother!

Let’s pretend
Make a pack of cards with different characters from the book and a basket of props for the children to act out the character – using gestures and accents.

Let’s recall
How many things can you think of associated with Wales that are red, green and white?

Let’s discover
What does superstitious mean? Ask the children to ask at home about superstitions – does any one in their family have any superstitions? Ask the teachers in the school if they have any and write a list.

Let’s think
How many different ways has the Cinderella story been introduced – a story, a film, a ballet, an opera – can you think of other ways it could be told or shared?

Chapter 8
Pages 44 & 45
Let’s pretend
Recreate the story of Cinderalla through mime in groups.

Let’s investigate
Shoe sizes – send a letter home to ask the parents to send in old shoes – use them to order into sizes & sort into groups of similar shoes – perhaps open a shoe shop in the role play area.

Let’s think
Why was the emperor so cross? Should he have let Mozart marry his daughter?
Pages 46, 47 & 48

Let’s imagine
How would it feel to be chased by guards? Think of words to describe how you would feel. Why did the emperor need guards?

Let’s make
Mozart gave Jack and Megan a special gift. Try to create a magic flute flute from a straw or tube. Listen to Mozart’s Magic flute music.

Chapter 9

Page 49

Let’s move
Imagine sitting inside trunk when it was swerving and falling through the air – the ground is getting closer & closer, how do you ensure you won’t get hurt?

Pages 50 & 51

Let’s describe
What can you see in the picture/ illustration? Who has been to Paris – what did you see? Play a matching game using photographs of famous sights in Paris to the illustration – can you match them?

Pages 52 & 53

Let’s discover
Listen to Chevalier’s story, why was he so special? What did people call him?
Discombobulated – when do you feel like that?

Chapter 10

Pages 54, 55, 56 & 57

Let’s find out
What was the guillotine? Why did the French send people to the guillotine? How do you think Jack and Megan were feeling?

Pages 58, 59, 60 & 61

Let’s draw
Mozart’s Queen of the night appeared from the flute – draw a hideous creation that could rise from your magic flute – describe the character.
Who came to save the day? What did they do? Who is the first singing in line? Second?.. They are a quartet – can you remember what that means?

Let’s describe
Think of words to describe different sounds – voices, birdsong, alarms, traffic etc write a short noisy poem about sounds.
Pages 62 & 63

Let's think

Who else uses tools as part of their work? Think of different items in stories & rhymes that are important eg Jack & the beanstalk/ Harry Potter/ Cinderella. Professor Peri’s baton was very important – it was like a magic wand – if you could magic anything what would it be?

Chapter 11

Pages 64 & 65

Let's plan

Investigate the museums nearby and decide which one you would like to visit.

Let's recall

Who did Jack ad Megan meet this time? What are they called as a group – The Classicals. Where did they visit this time? Which was your favourite character?

Pages 66, 67, 68 & 69

Let's discover more

Learn about the Classical period and the composers, some other famous people of the time and events that happened.

Back page

What can you see? The blurb – a quick description of the story.

Write a blurb of your favourite book.

A list of the books in the series.

An ISBN number – this is a unique number, every book has one it is like our fingerprint each of us has our own special print.

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