



The McGraw-Hill Companies

# Carnegie Kids

Teacher Companion Guide for Polygraph Lounge

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# 1. Questions to Spark Conversation

- ★ How did it feel to go to Carnegie Hall?
- ★ How was this concert different from our last concert with Polygraph Lounge?
- ★ Which songs do you remember? What were they about?
- ★ How did we learn that playing and making music can be like cooking?
- ★ What did you find surprising about the concert?
- ★ What kinds of interesting or unusual sounds did you hear?
- ★ What was your favorite part of the concert?
- ★ What did Polygraph Lounge teach us at the concert?
- ★ What do you want to know more about?

## 2. Turning Everyday Sounds into Music

- ★ Brainstorm and make a chart of sounds from students' daily routines, and make a human sound and gesture for each. For example, a tooth brushing motion could accompany the sound "cchh—ch ch cchhh—" or the school bell could be mimicked by uttering "brrrrring—" while shaking one's hands.
- ★ When you have chosen your sounds and practiced them, pick one and create a steady, repeating pattern.  
For example:  
brrrrring, brrrrring, brrrrring, brrrrring, etc.
- ★ Then choose other sounds on top of which volunteers or other groups can layer their own.  
For example:  
A: uh oh!, uh oh!, etc.  
B: cchh—ch ch, cchh—ch ch, etc.  
C: brrrrring, brrrrring, brrrrring, brrrrring, etc.
- ★ How do we fit these sounds together so they sound best?

## 3. Be a Sound Chef! Learn to "Cook" Your Own Song

- ★ Polygraph Lounge taught us that we can decide how to perform or sing songs we know.

Review some ways of singing a song:

Fast ↔ Slow

Loud ↔ Soft

Deep voice ↔ High voice

with clapping ↔ without clapping

Singing ↔ Humming

- ★ Now choose a song that your class can sing all together. Experiment with ways of performing or "cooking" this song. Using the list above, students can make decisions on how they want to perform the song. Have students try it in different ways (including different ways at the same time), and talk about how each sounds different and why they may prefer one way over another.

## 4. NurSery Rhyme Mix-Up

★ As in the piece *SmorgasMusic*, Polygraph Lounge sometimes uses bits of songs and then combines them in different ways to create a completely new song.

Here are some simple steps to help you try the same thing.

1. Review several simple and familiar songs with your class, such as *Mary Had a Little Lamb*; *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*; *Old MacDonald*; *Happy Birthday*; *London Bridge is Falling Down*; *Ring Around the Rosey*; *Three Blind Mice*; etc.
2. Let students choose their favorite lines from the songs and write down the lyrics on the board.
3. Now start switching some of the lines and see if you can sing them without stopping.

Your new song could look like this:

"Mary had a little lamb"

"Pockets full of poSeY"

"Like a diamond in the sky"

"EE-I, EE-I, OH"

It's challenging and silly but if you practice you'll get it.

4. Variations: Try singing the words of one song to the tune of another. Or try singing a song while replacing some of its words with those from another.