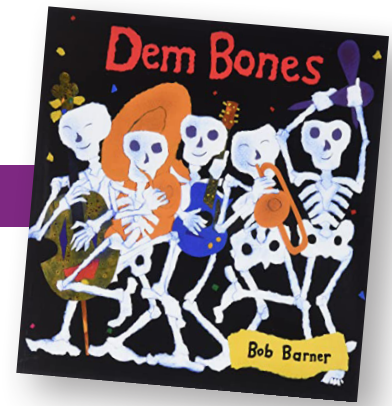


Dem Bones



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Bones, Movement, Music, Self-Expression

Author:
Bob Barner

Book Brief: A skeleton band supplies words and music to the well-known song based on the African American spiritual.

Illustrator:
Bob Barner

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the book based on the cover. Ask whether they think the book will be a storybook or a teaching book. Encourage them to explain why.

Picture Walk: Flip through some pages and ask students what they notice about the illustrations. Help students understand the text structure

by explaining that the song goes throughout the story, but each page teaches us about a different bone, too.

Vocabulary: Review these body parts using the Picture Vocabulary Cards: foot, heel, ankle, leg, knee, thigh, hip, back, shoulder, head, neck.

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about what the author wants to teach us from reading this book."

WHILE WE READ

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (LEVELS 1-4)

- **Level 1:** For each page, pause and say "Point to this bone on your body."
- **Level 2:** "What bone is this page teaching about?"
- **Level 3:** "Explain how this bone helps us use our bodies."
- **Level 4:** "Which bone do you think comes next in the song? Why do you think that?"

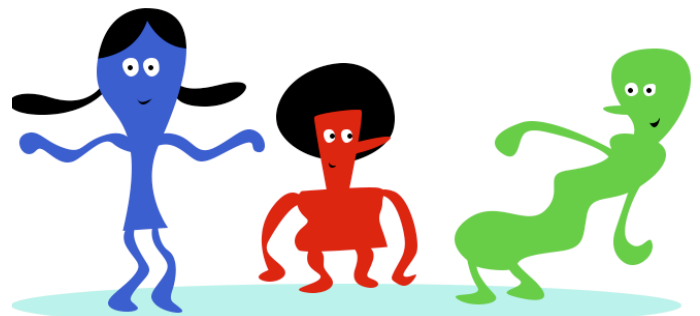
LET'S THINK ABOUT

Ask, "How did the author use a song to teach us about bones? What is something new that you learned about bones?"

BOOK ACTIVITY:

Being Boneless

Have your students sit in a circle. Remind your students that they've been learning about parts of their body they use every day. Ask, "What are some important parts that are inside of our bodies?" Encourage them to turn to a peer and share. After a brief whole class discussion, direct students stand up. Say, "Show me what would happen to you if you had no bones in your body!" Encourage them to experiment "being boneless." Discuss what body parts are movable and what would happen if that wasn't possible.



Dem Bones

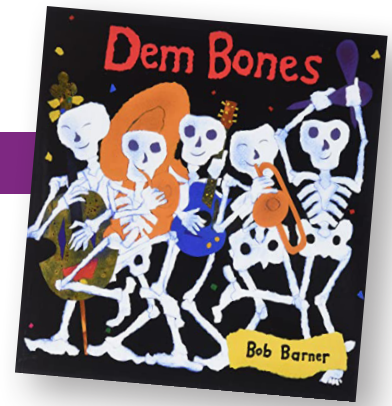
A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Themes: Bones, Monement, Music, Self-Expression

Book Brief: A skeleton band supplies words and music to the well-known song based on the African American spiritual.

Author:
Bob Barner

Illustrator:
Bob Barner



TIME TO READ!



Before: This story is helpful for building vocabulary on different body parts and bones within your body. Before reading, flip through some of the pages and ask your child what the skeletons are doing on each page.

During: As you read, encourage your child to identify the bones and their locations in their body. Ask, “Where is this bone in your body?” and encourage them to point to the location on their body. Support their vocabulary by repeating the name of the bone as they point.

After, ask questions:

- Which bones did you see?
- What does the _____ bone help us do?
- What was your favorite bone to learn about?

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Story Awareness means the ways that stories are organized. Help your child develop story awareness by giving opportunities for them to respond to stories you read. This book uses a unique format that brings together a traditional song while also learning facts about different bones in their body. As you read, pause after each line in the song and its connected “bone fact” and ask your child to explain how this bone helps our bodies. You may notice that your child learns the rhythm of the song while also re-telling newly learned information.

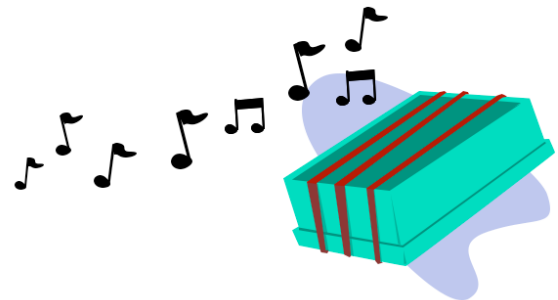
RELATED ACTIVITIES

BOX GUITAR

Materials: shoe box, three rubber bands

Remove the lid from a shoebox and stretch three rubber bands across it. Strum the rubber bands and play along as you sing the song Dem Bones.

You may also want to listen to the song online to hear the rhythm: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pbl4BNkAq_U



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS AUTHORED BY BOB BARNER

- **My Dog Has Fleas (2021)**
- **Go, Go, Go (2020)** *also available in Spanish
- **Fish Wish (2019)**