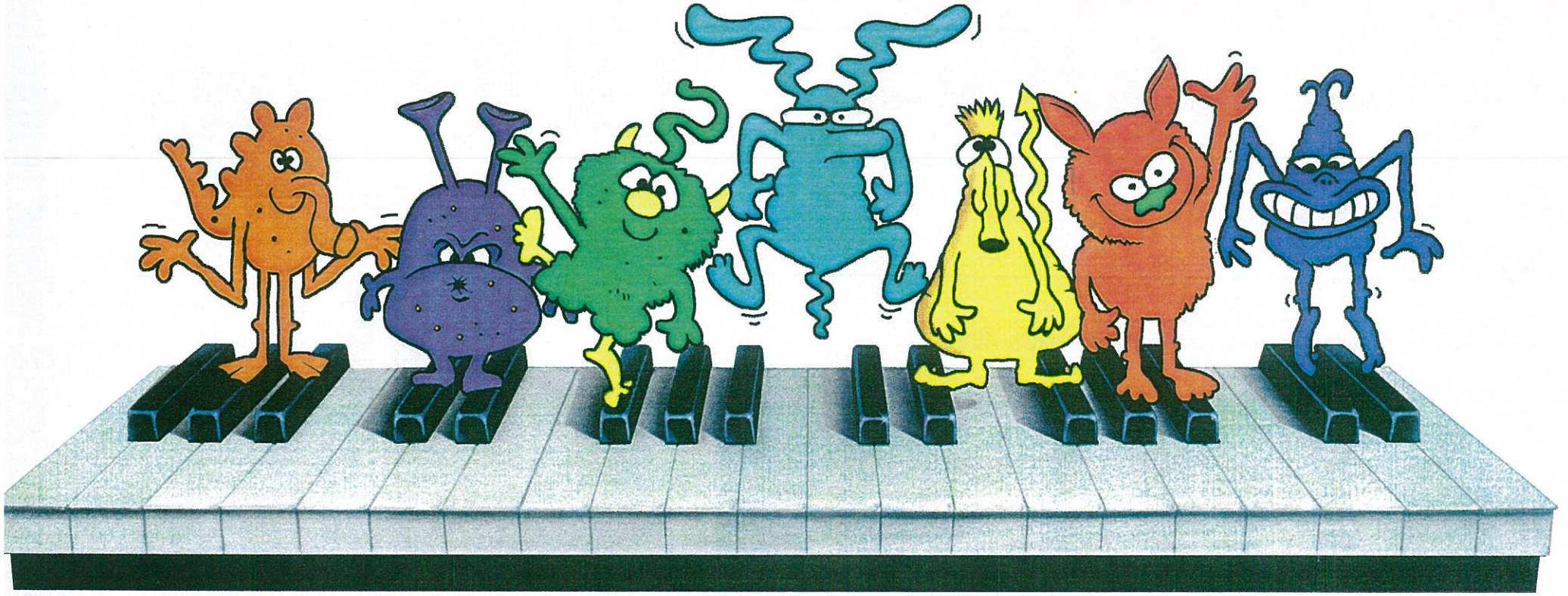
JOHN THOMPSON'S
EASIEST PIANO COURSE

PART ONE

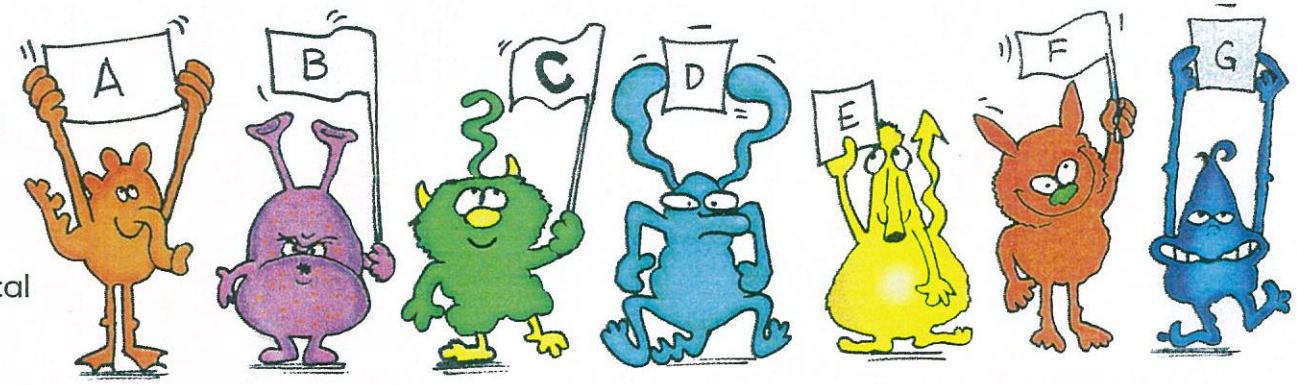


An easy and fun approach to learning the piano

The Piano Keyboard

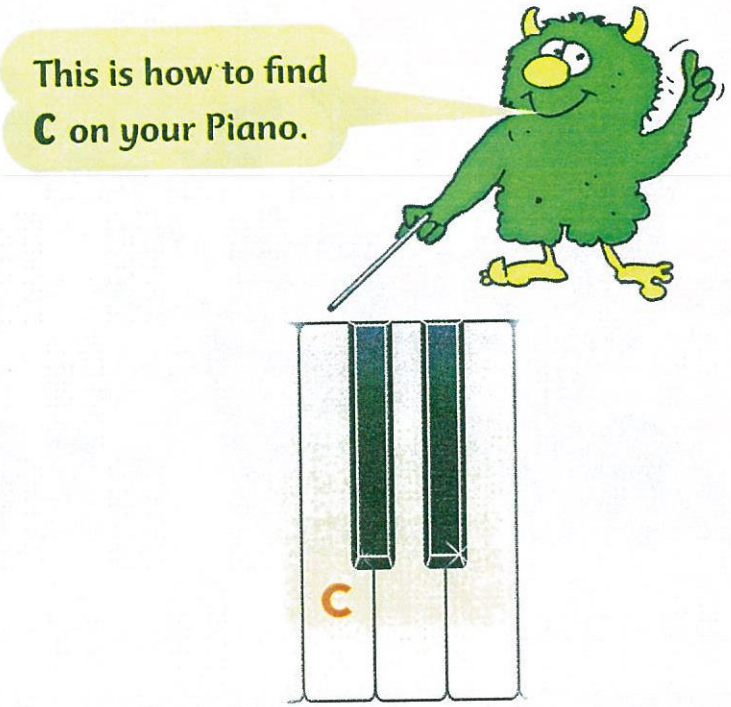
There are WHITE KEYS and BLACK KEYS on the Piano Keyboard.

The WHITE KEYS are named



Recite the letters of the Musical Alphabet several times.

The BLACK KEYS are grouped in TWOS and THREES.



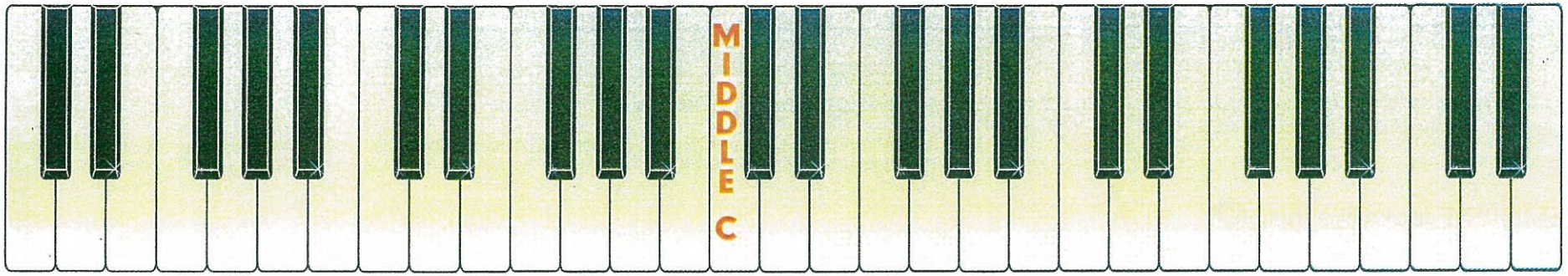
Touch all the groups of TWO BLACK KEYS on your Piano.

C is found to the **left** of the TWO BLACK KEYS.

Letter all the C's you can find on the Keyboard Chart, next page.

Now, on your piano, PLAY all the C's you can find – using the thumb.

Keyboard Chart





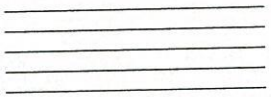
This is a picture of your keyboard – as you learn the name of each new key, turn back to this page and mark ALL the keys having the same name.

Middle C on the Music

Music is written on the LINES and SPACES of the STAVE.

The NOTES on the music tell us which KEYS to play.

The Stave



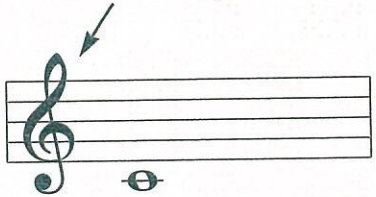
There are different kinds of notes, but first we shall learn the SEMIBREVE.

A SEMIBREVE looks like this, 

It is held for FOUR COUNTS.

Clef Signs

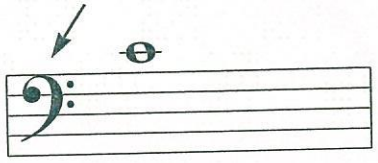
Treble Clef sign



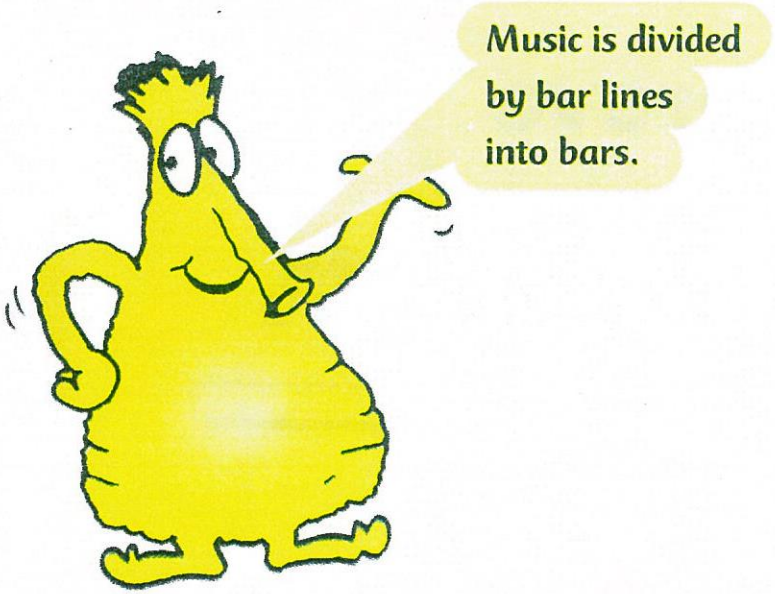
This is how MIDDLE C looks in the Treble.
It is written as a SEMIBREVE, and gets FOUR counts.
It is played by the RIGHT HAND thumb.
Play it and count FOUR.

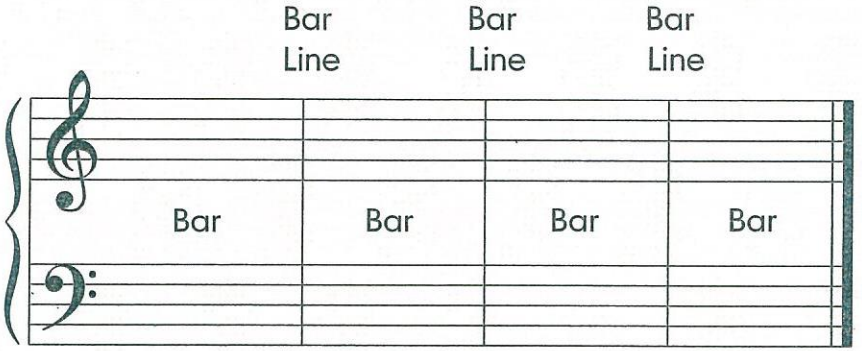


Bass Clef sign



This is how MIDDLE C looks in the Bass.
Written as a semibreve, it gets FOUR counts.
It is played by the LEFT HAND thumb.
Play it and count FOUR.
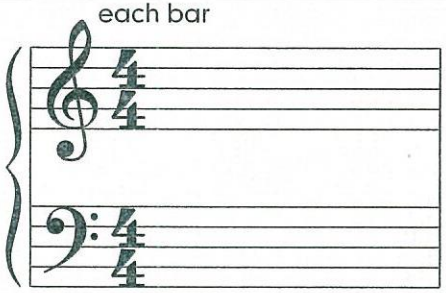




The numbers after the Clef Signs tell us how to count.

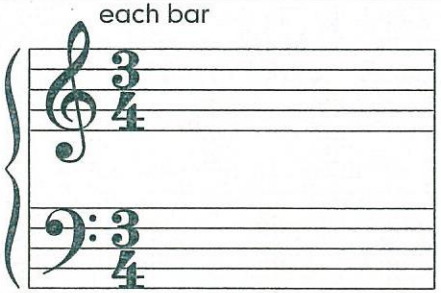
In this book we need only read the TOP number.

It shows how many counts to each bar.

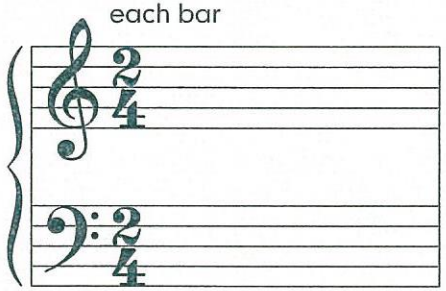
Count 4 to each bar

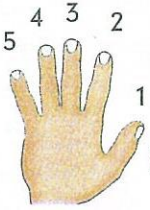


Count 3 to each bar



Count 2 to each bar





Each finger has a number.

Left Hand

The thumbs are both numbered 1.
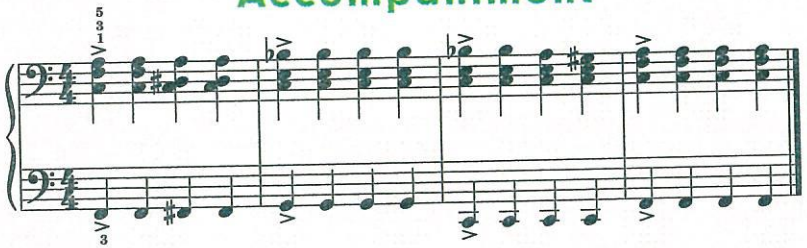


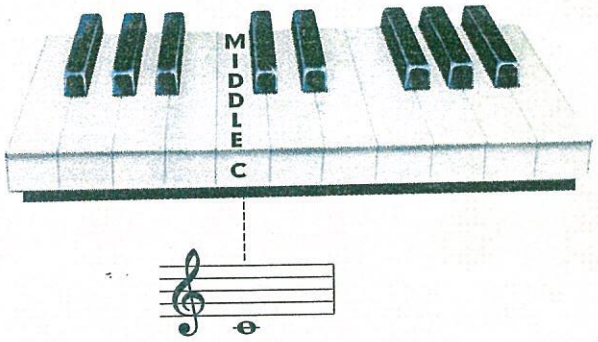
Right Hand

Middle C as a Semibreve

In the Treble

Accompaniment



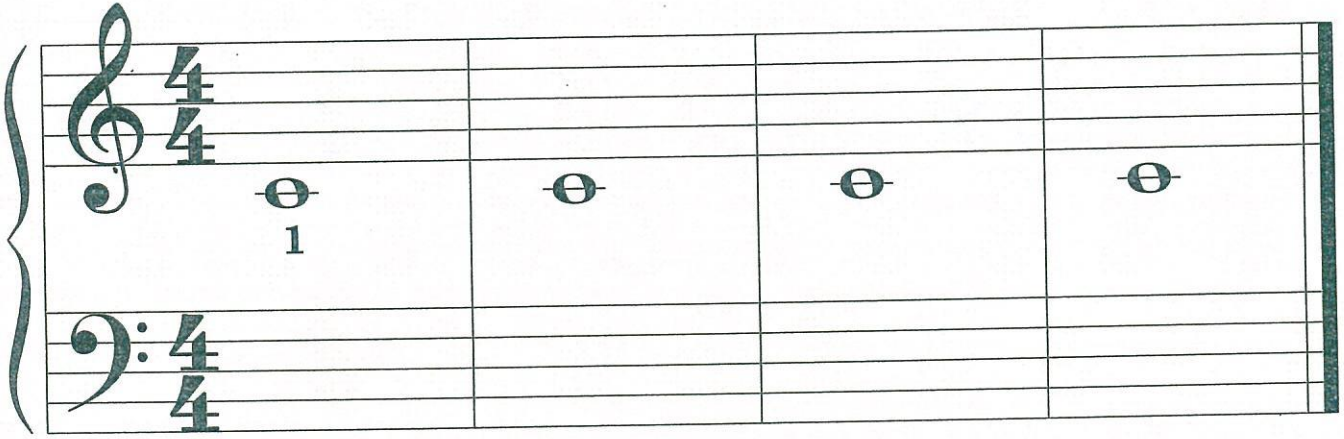




Play with right hand thumb and count four to each note.

Let's Play

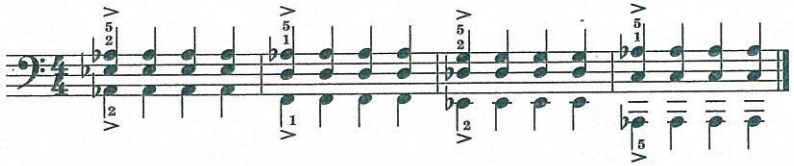
With the Right Hand

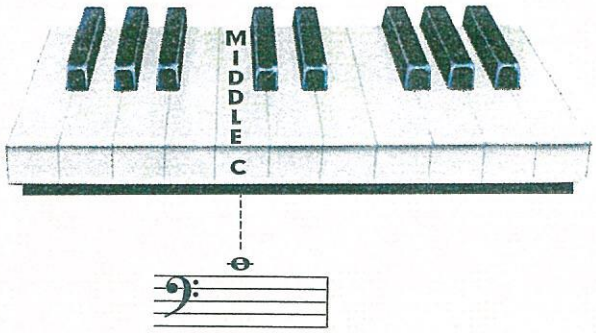


Middle C as a Semibreve

In the Bass

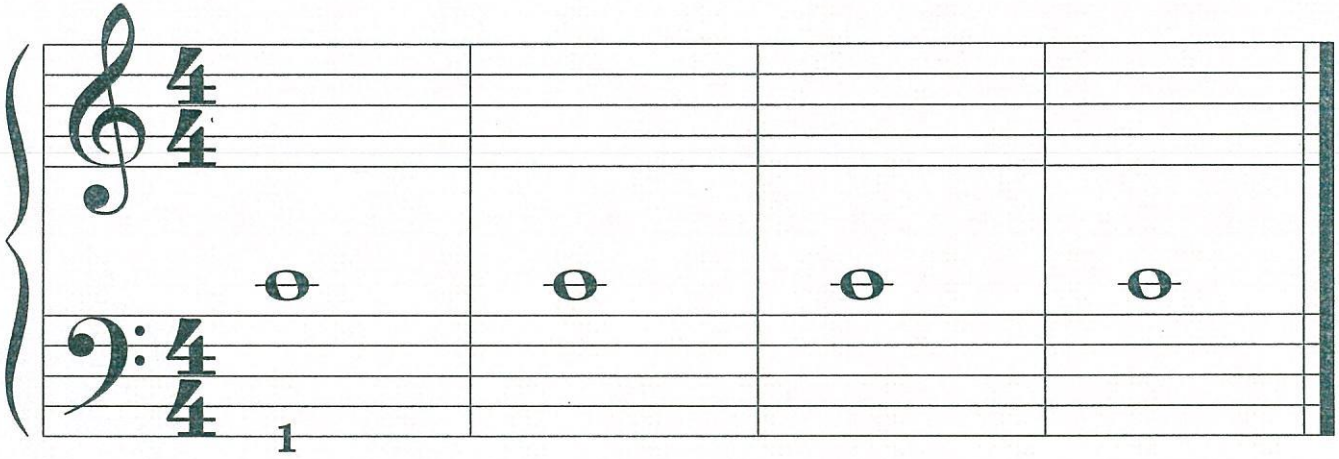
Accompaniment





Let's Play

With the Left Hand





Play with left hand thumb
count four to each note.

Middle C in Minims

When a note has an open head and a stem, like this, (𝅗𝅥 or 𝅗𝅥) it is called a MINIM and gets TWO COUNTS.

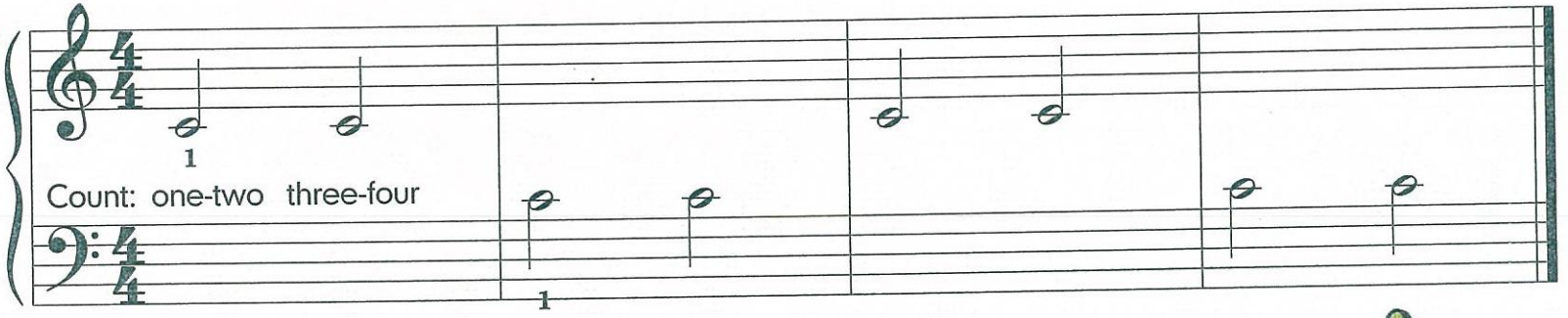
Play the following, counting TWO to each note –

'ONE, TWO' to the first note and 'THREE, FOUR' to the second note of each bar.

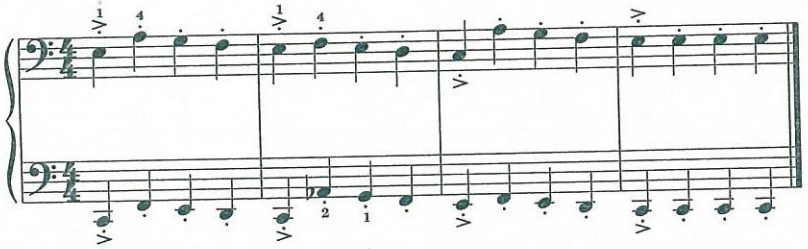


Count four to each bar.

Grandfather's Clock



Accompaniment





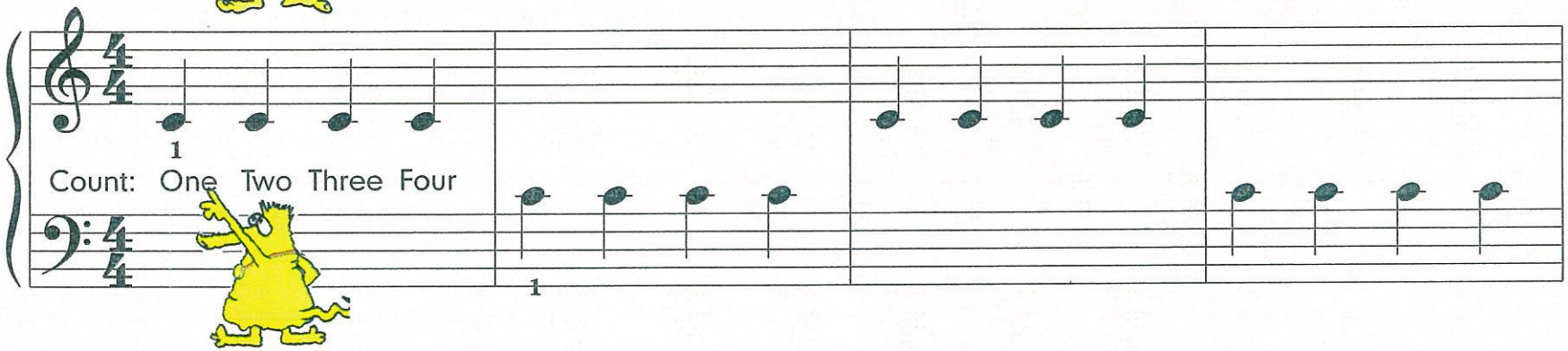
Middle C in Crotchets

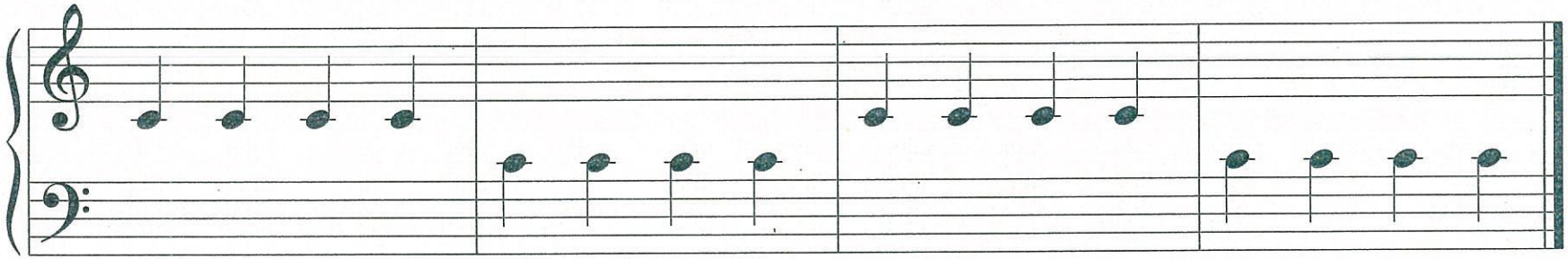
Four counts to each bar.
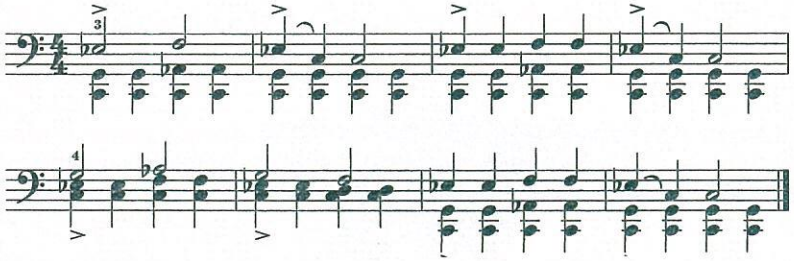


A CROTCHET looks like this ( or ) and gets one count.

Moccasin Dance





Accompaniment
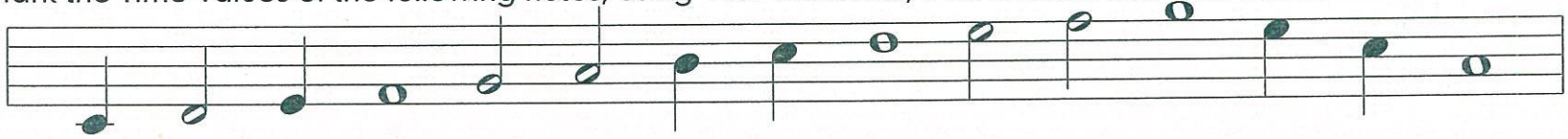




Work Sheet



Mark the Time Values of the following notes, using 1 for Crotchets, 2 for Minims and 4 for Semibreves.

1
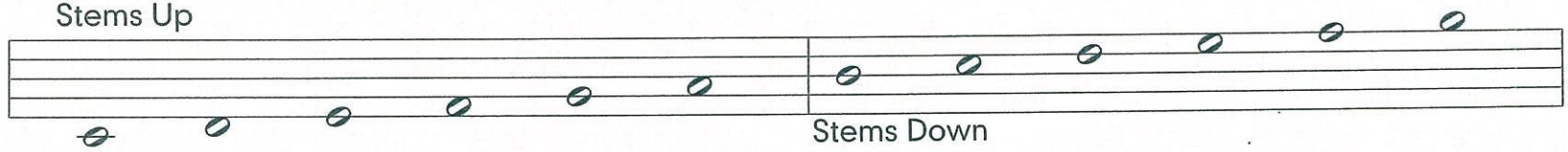


1 2 ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Make Minims of the following by adding stems.

Stems Up

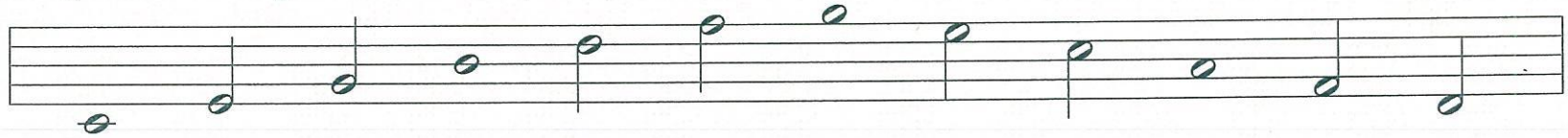
2



Stems Down

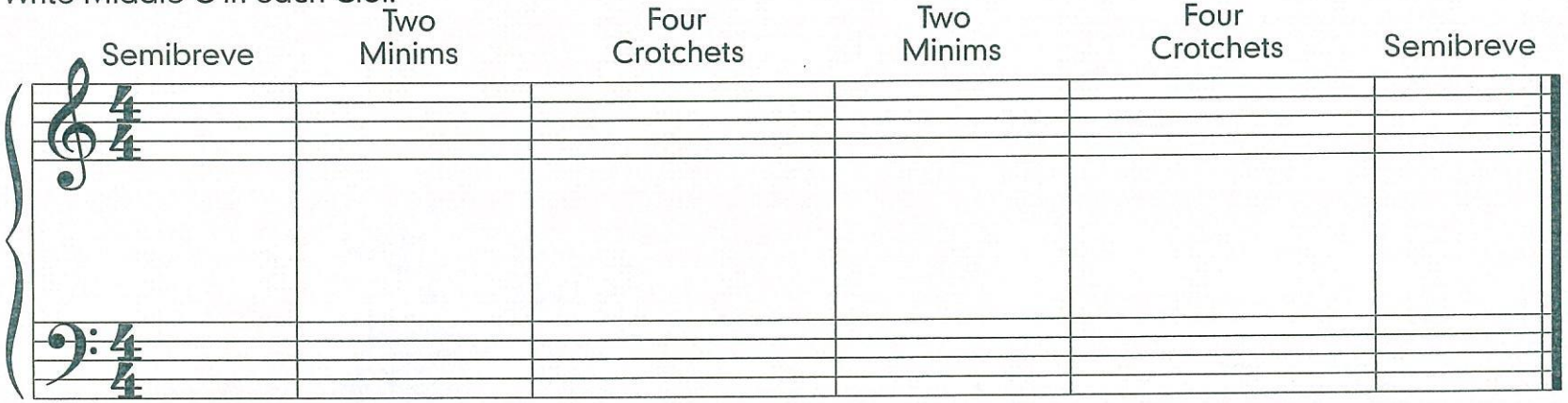
Change the following into Crotchets by filling in the heads and adding stems when necessary.

3
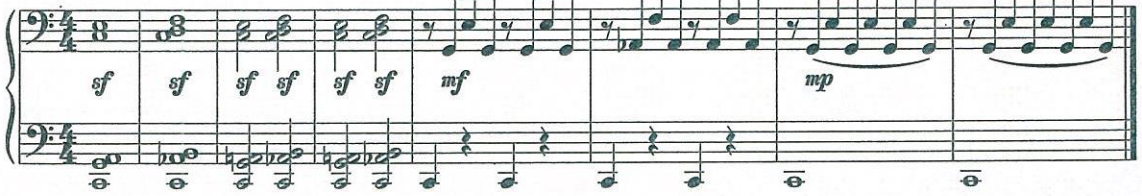


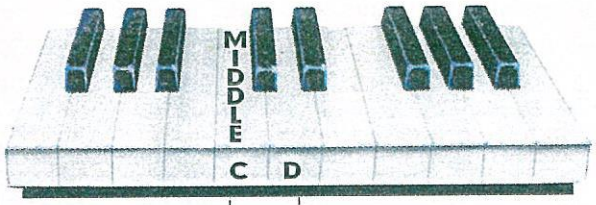
Write Middle C in each Clef.

4



Accompaniment

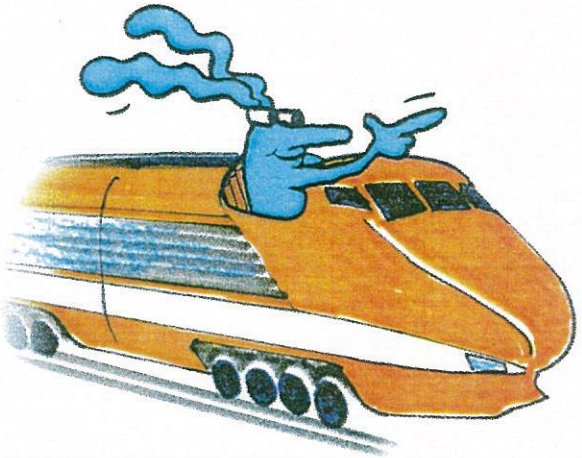




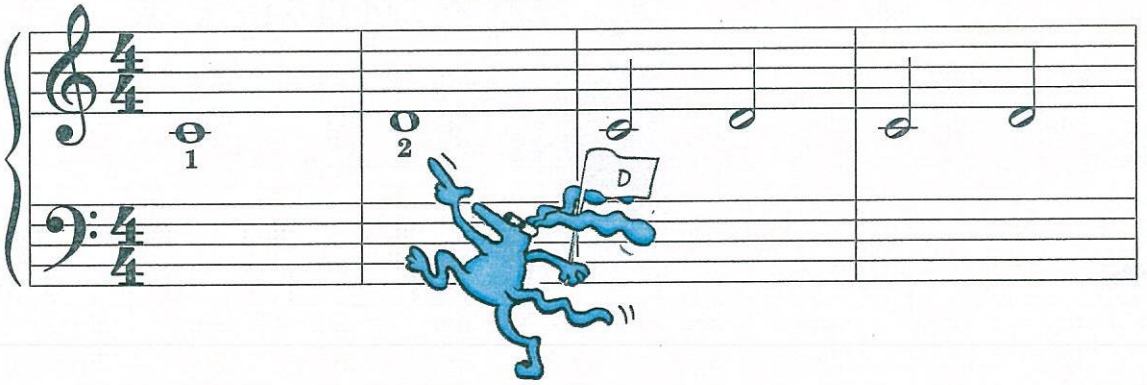
Right Hand

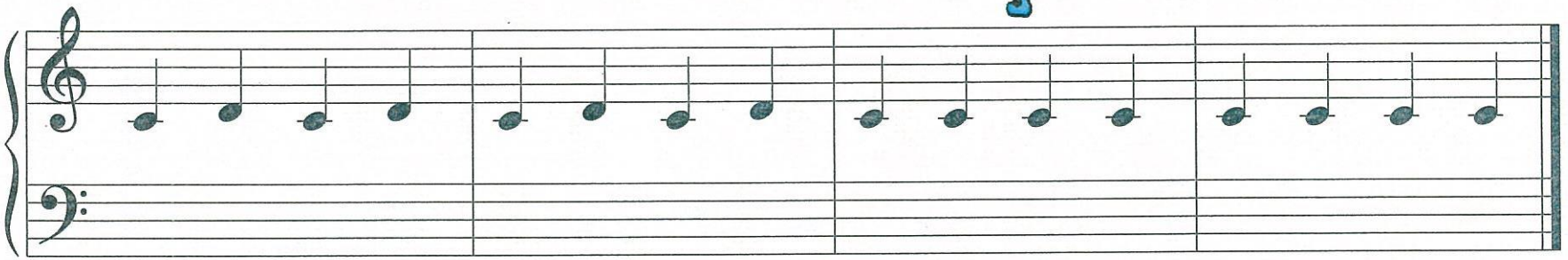


New Note



The Train



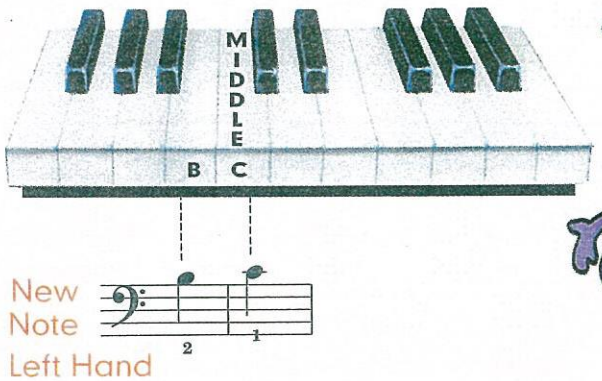




Turn to the work sheet on page 15 and do exercises 1 and 2.

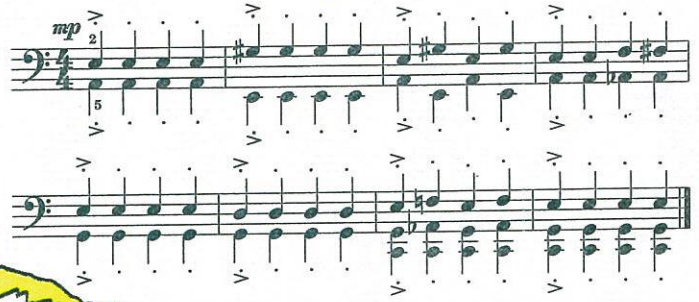
Note to teacher

From this point on, be sure to stress the importance of accenting the first count of each bar.

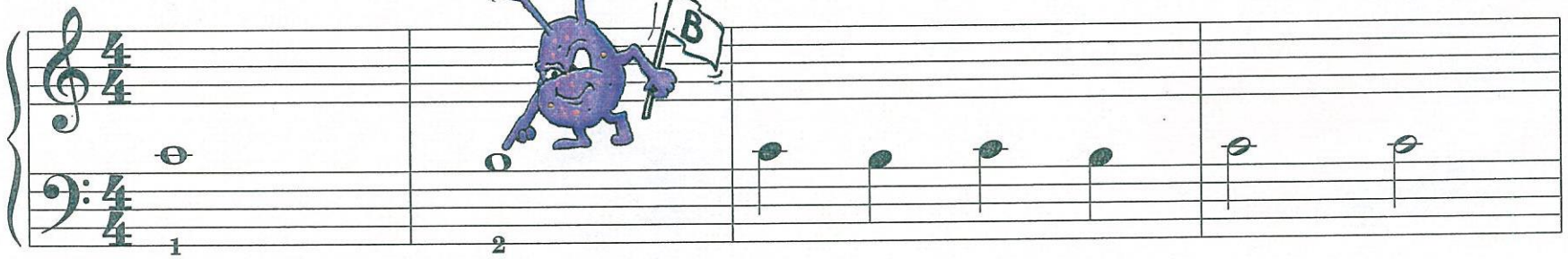


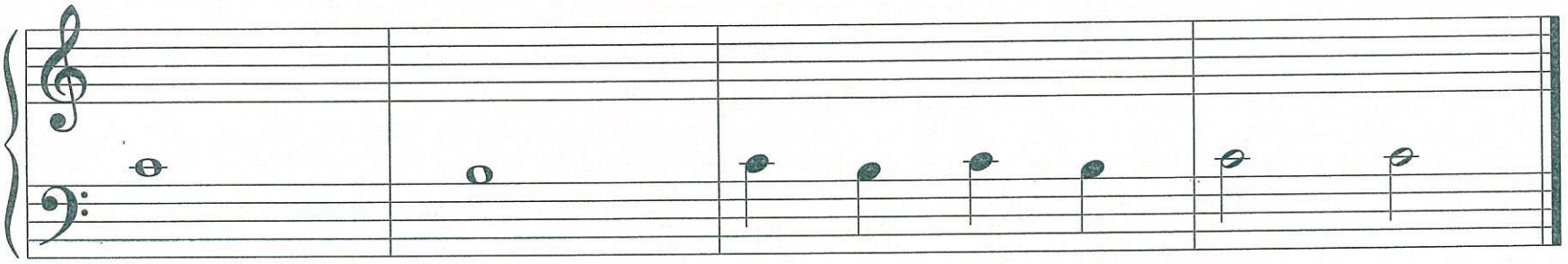


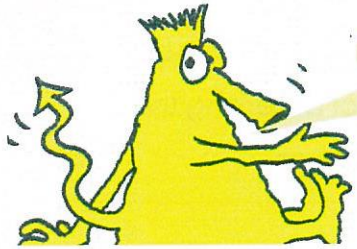
Accompaniment



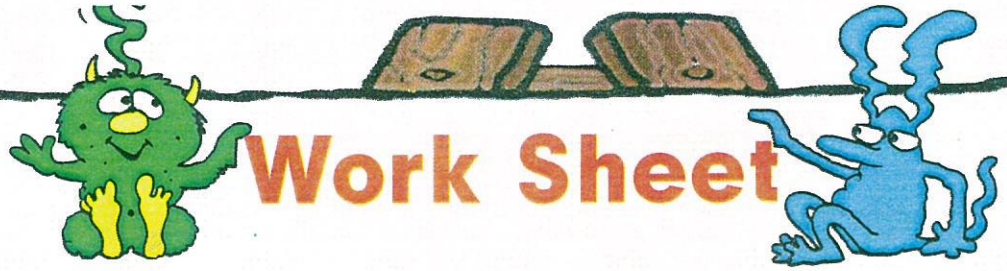
The Seabées







Do writing excercises
3, 4 and 5 on page 15.



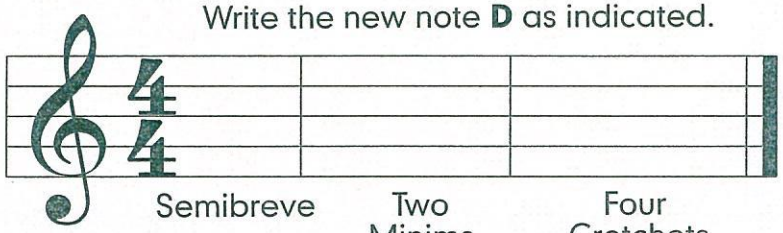
Work Sheet

1 Write letter names under the notes.
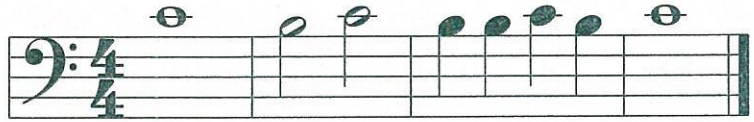


C _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

2 Write the new note **D** as indicated.



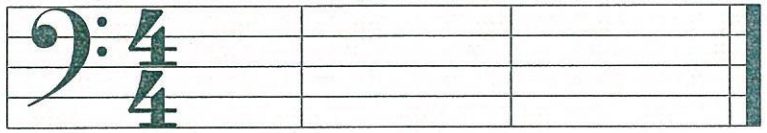
Semibreve Two Minims Four Crotchets

3 Write letter names under the notes.



C _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

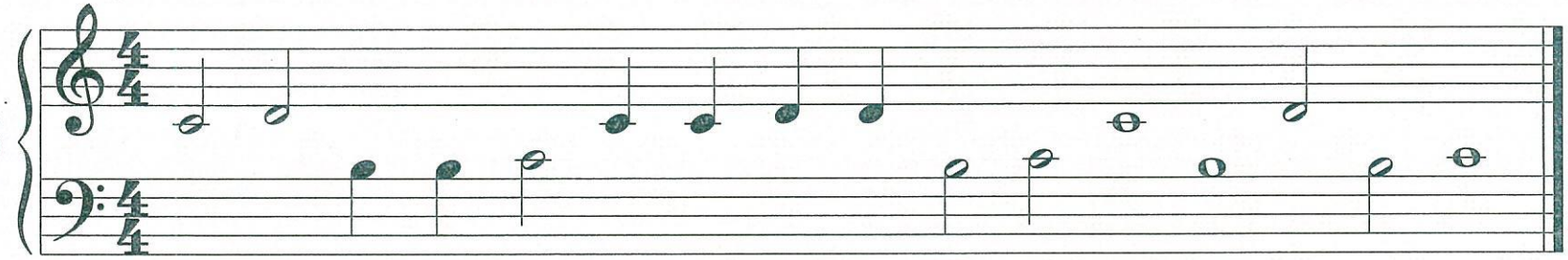
4 Write the new note **B** as indicated.



Semibreve Two Minims Four Crotchets

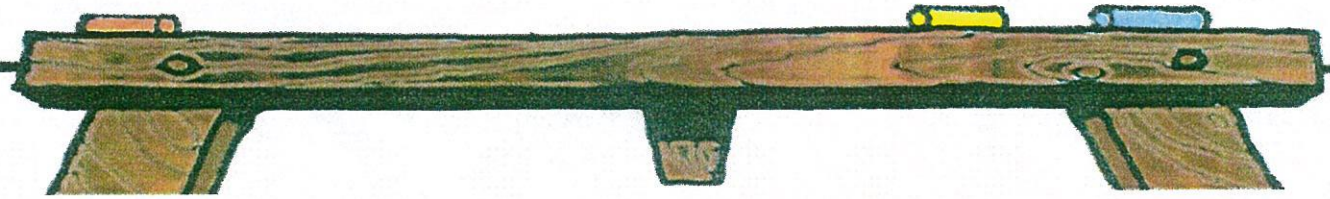
In the following exercise, first draw the Bar Lines where they belong. (Note Time Signature).
Next write the letter names of the notes.
Finally, mark the Time Values – using 1 for a Crotchet, 2 for a Minim and 4 for a Semibreve.

5



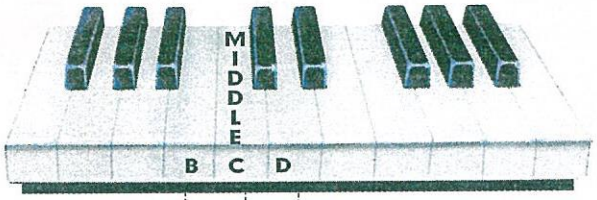
Letter Names **C** _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
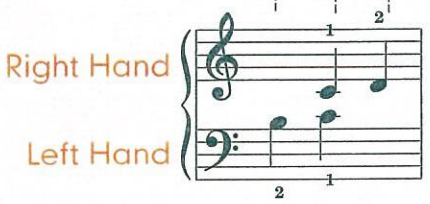
Time Values **2**



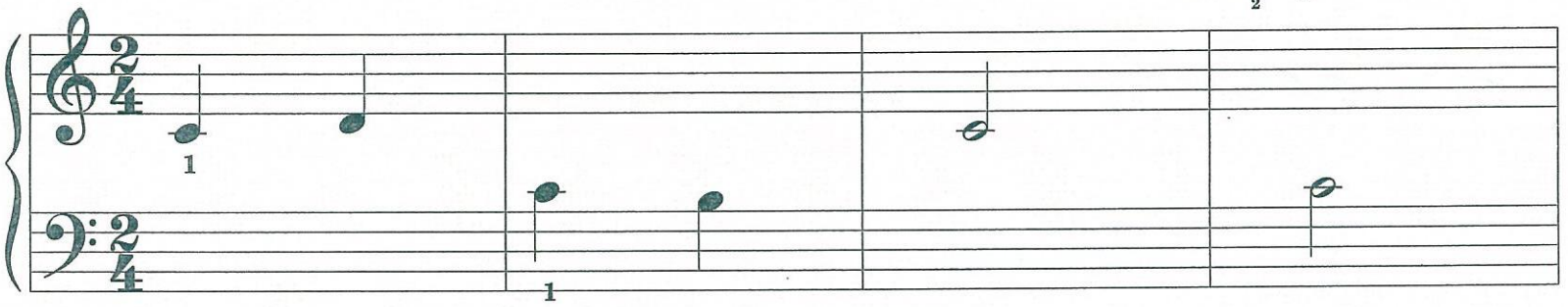
Two-Four

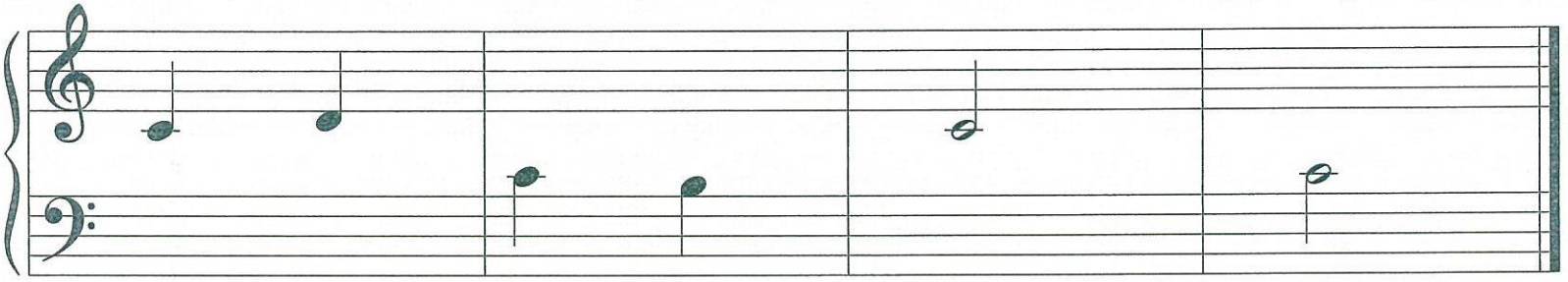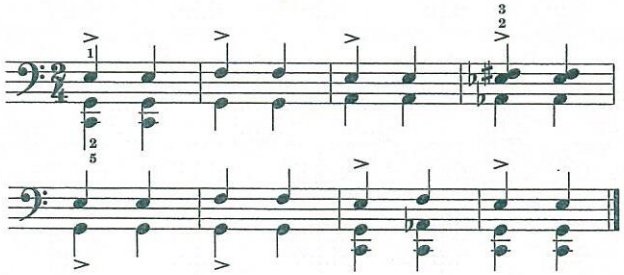






March of the Gnomes





Accompaniment





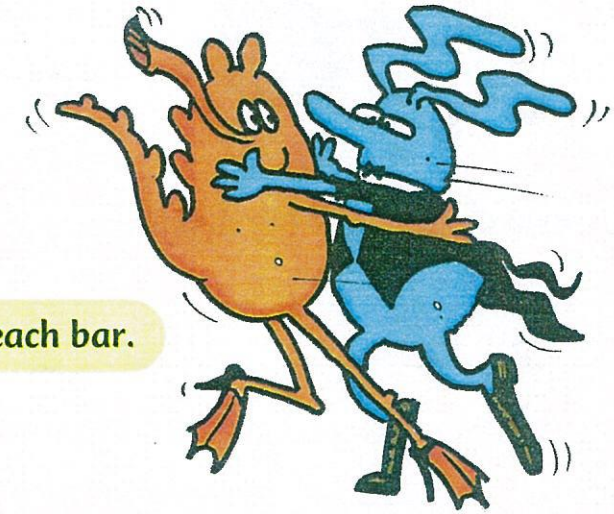
Three-Four and The Dotted Minim

The dotted minim

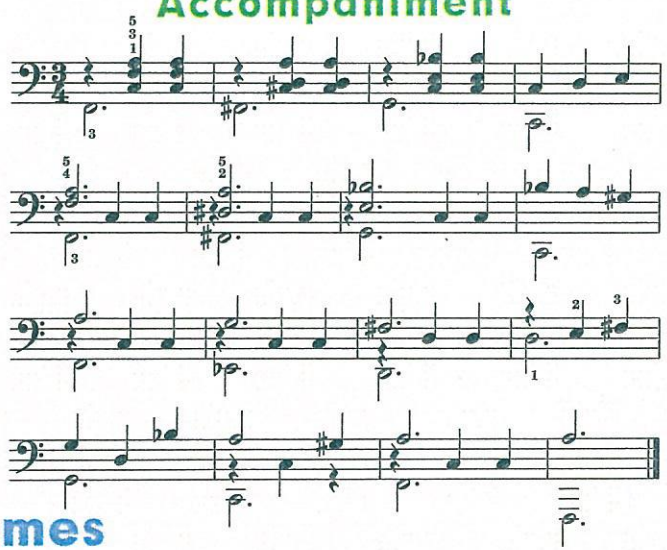
looks like this (𝅗𝅥. or 𝅗𝅥.)

and is held for 3 counts.

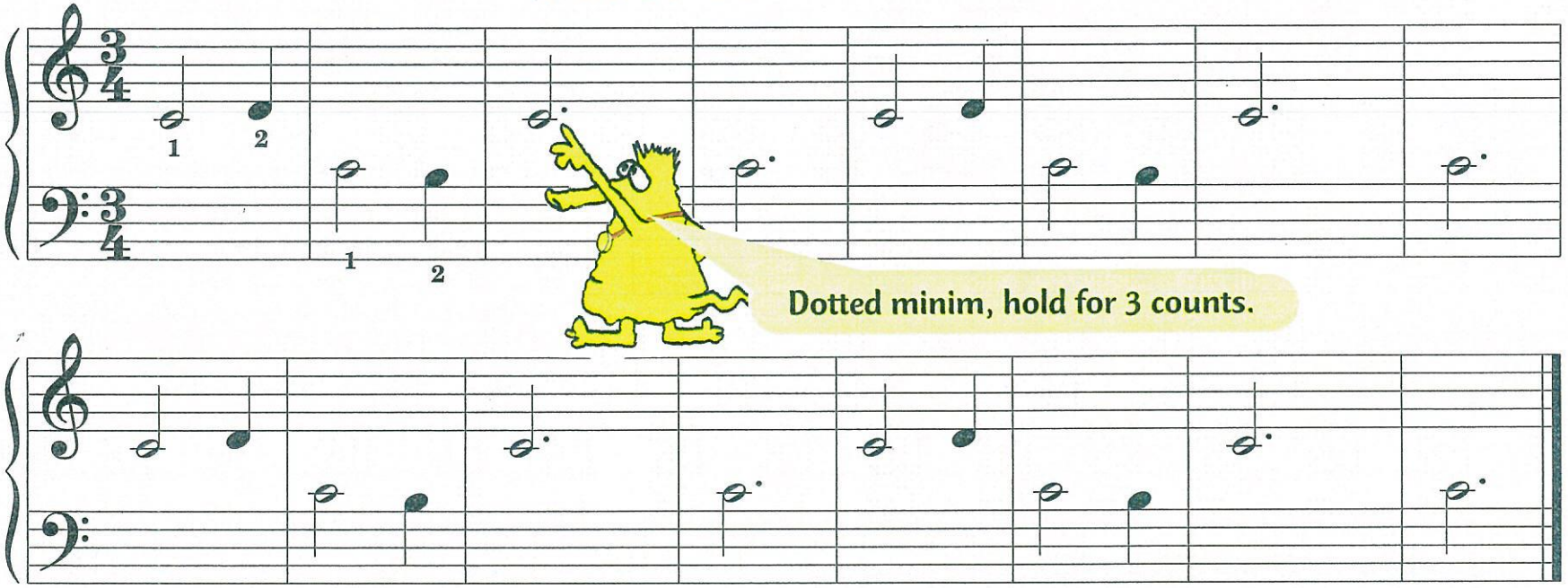




Accompaniment

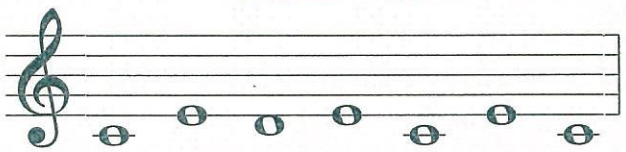


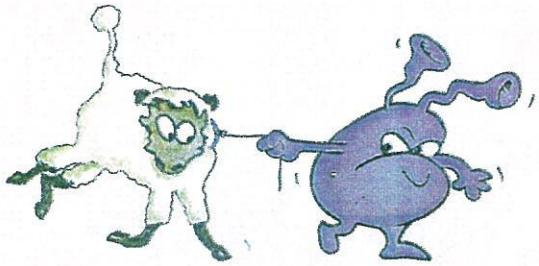
Dance of the Gnomes

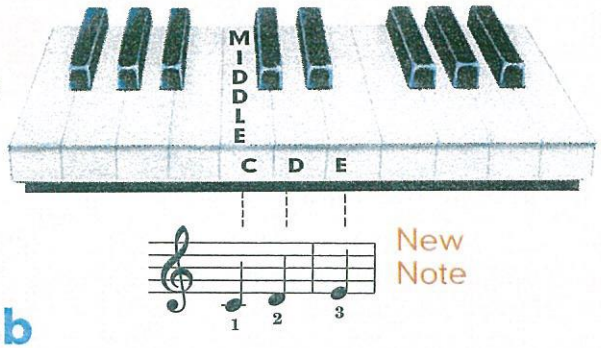


Do you see the importance of correct counting? These are the same notes you played in 'March of the Gnomes' but they make a new piece when you count 3 to each bar.
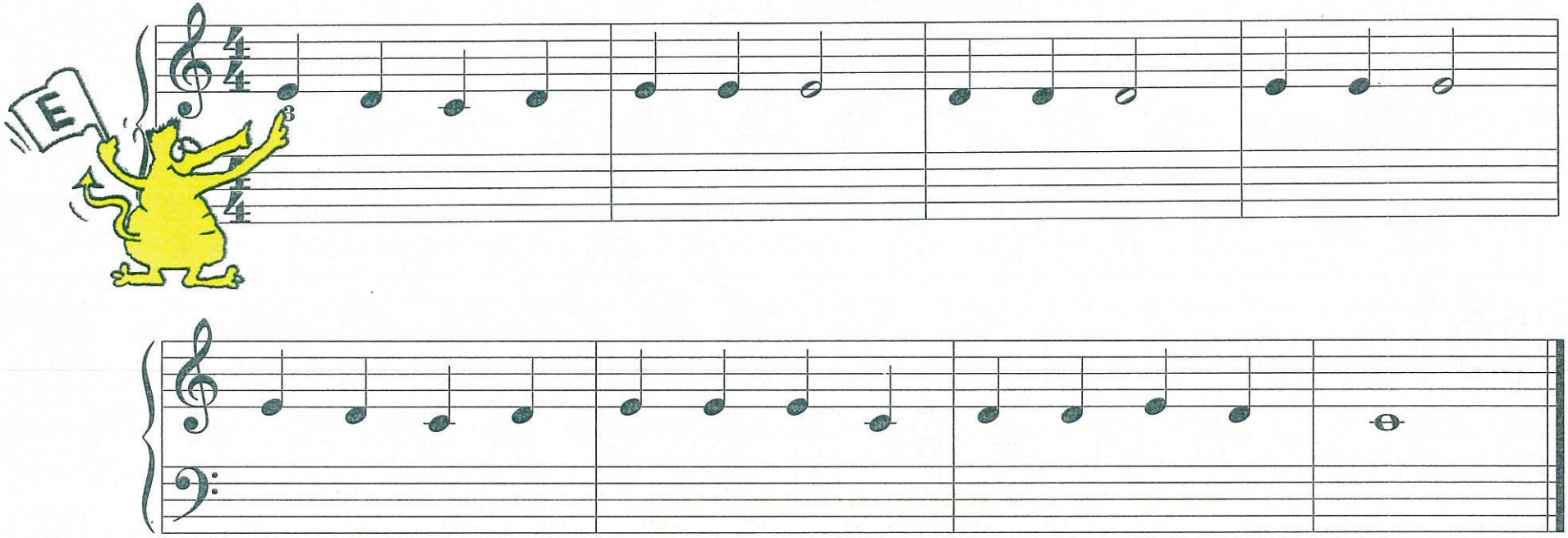
Read Aloud



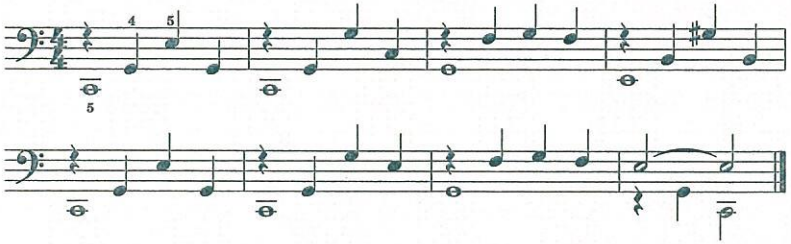




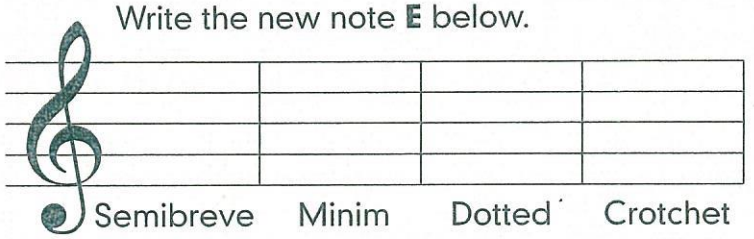
Mary Had a Little Lamb



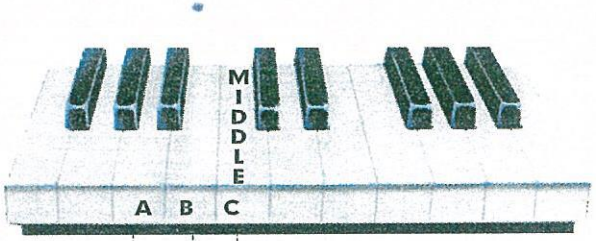
Accompaniment



Write the new note **E** below.
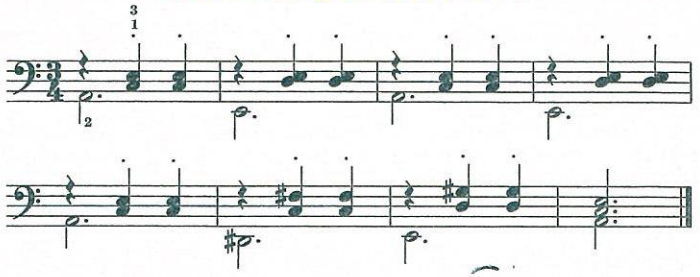


Semibreve Minim Dotted Minim Crotchet
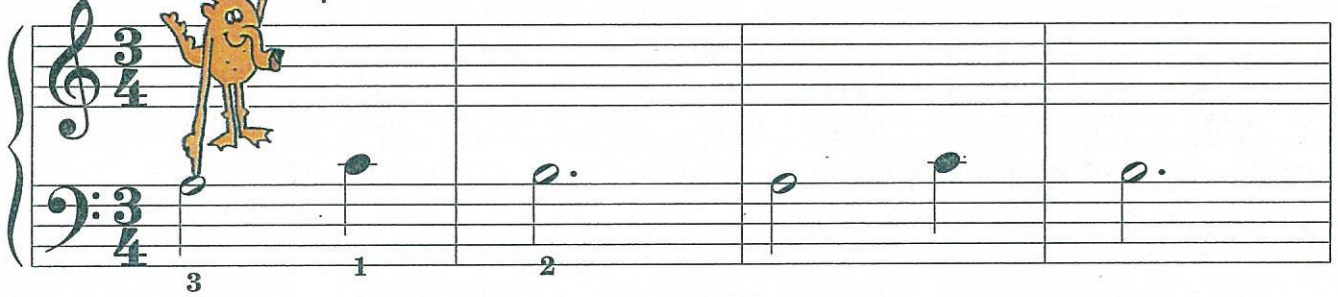


New Note

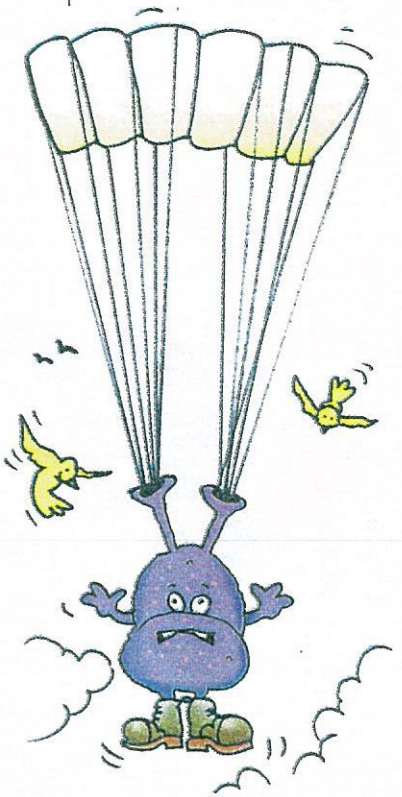


Accompaniment
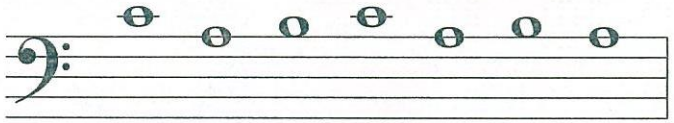


The Paratrooper

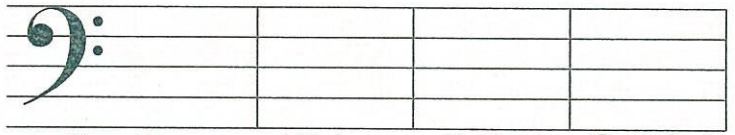




Read Aloud

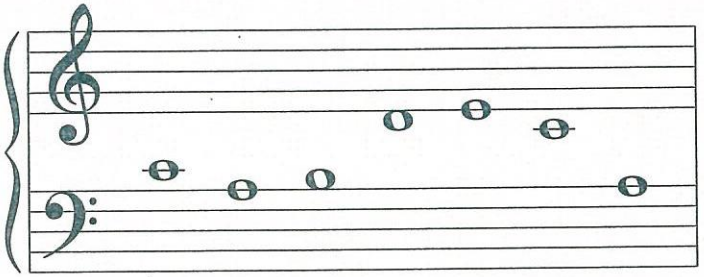


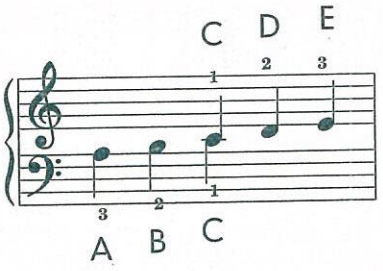
Write the new note **A** below.



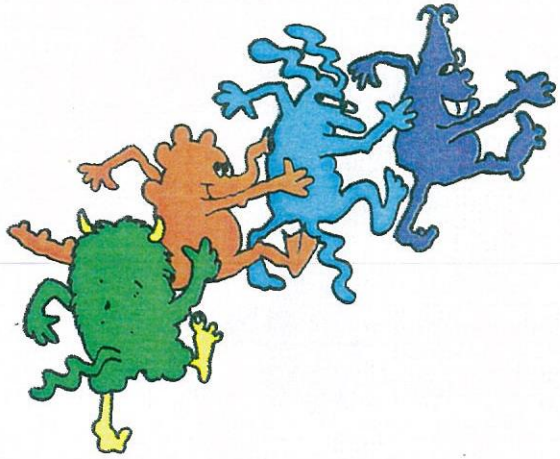
Semibreve | Minim | Dotted Minim | Crotchet

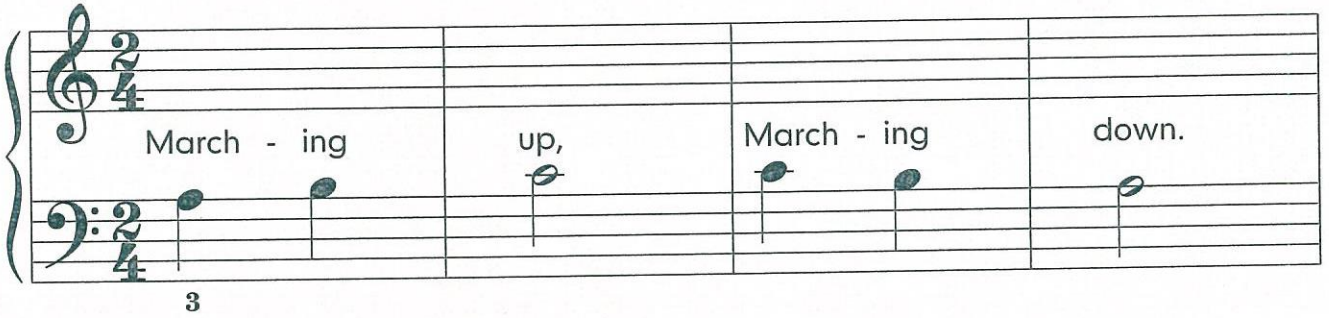
Read Aloud

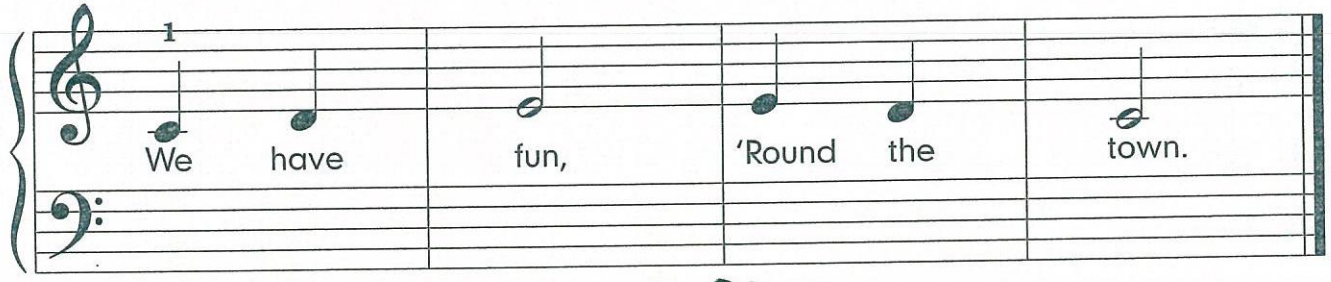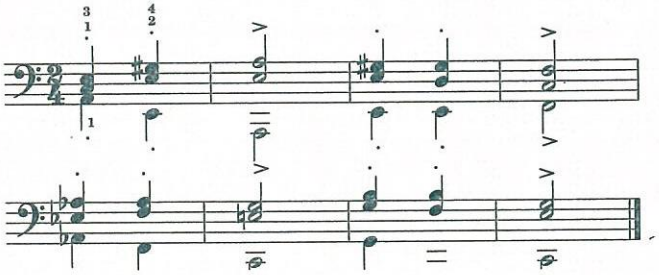




Marching Up and Down







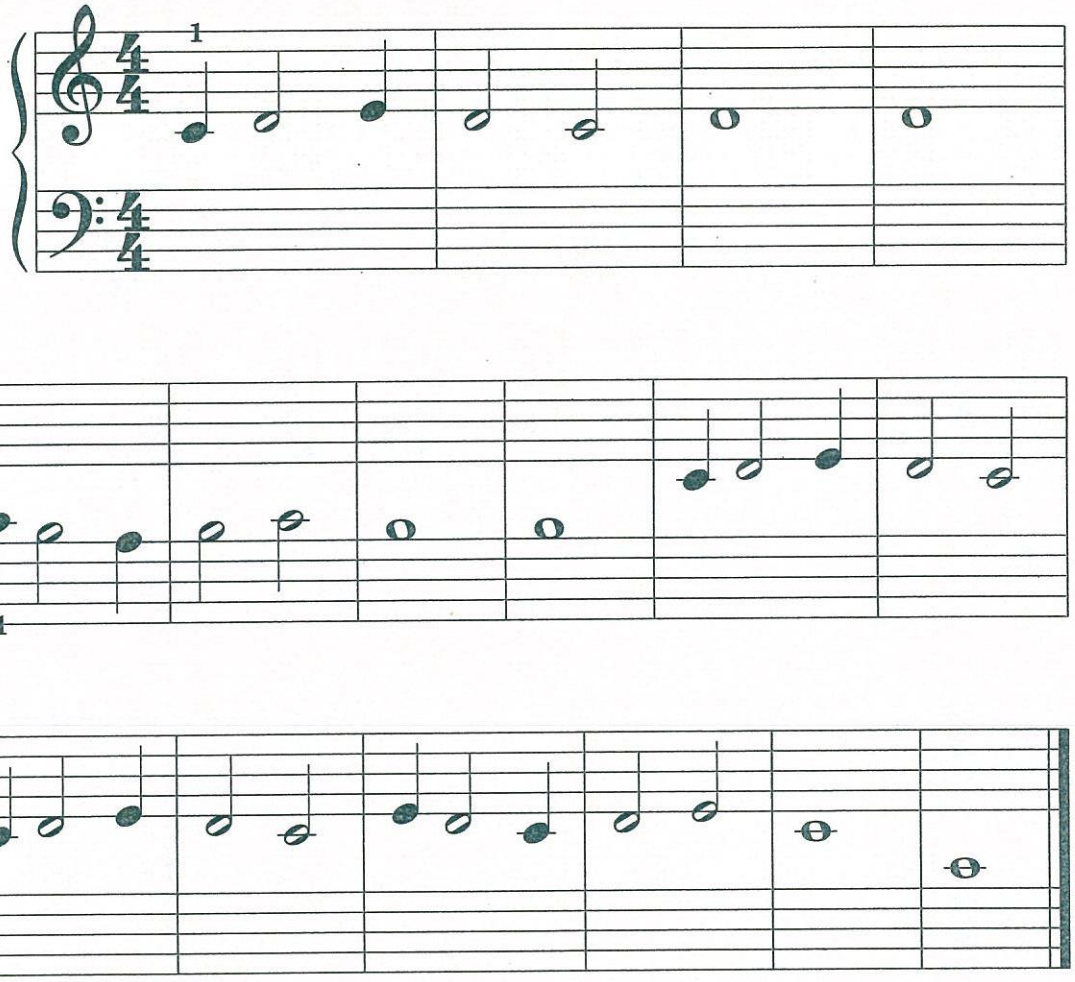
Accompaniment
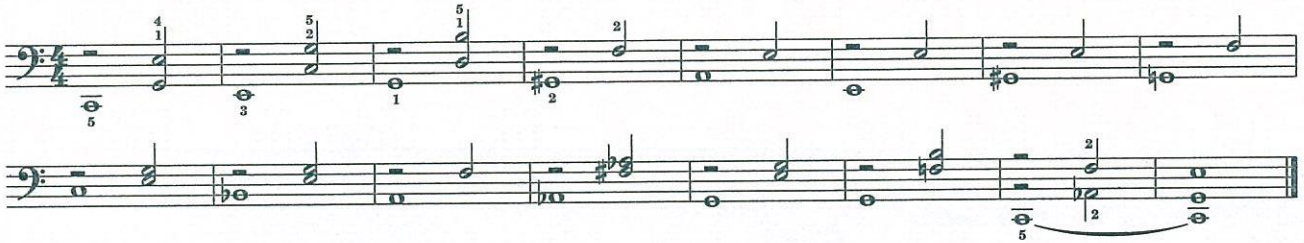




Rag-Time Raggles

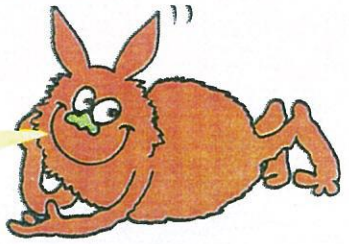




Accompaniment

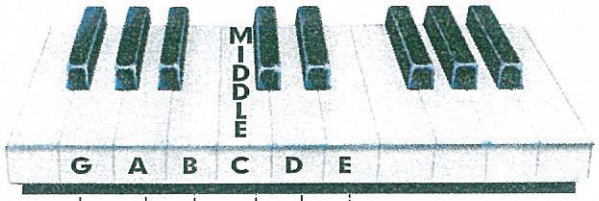


Work Sheet

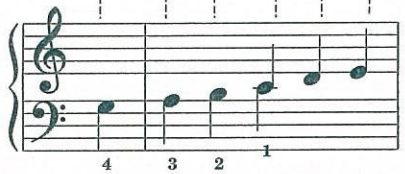


First, look at the time signatures. Next, draw bar lines in their proper places – then, write the letter-names under the notes.
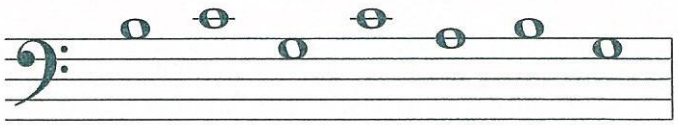




New Note

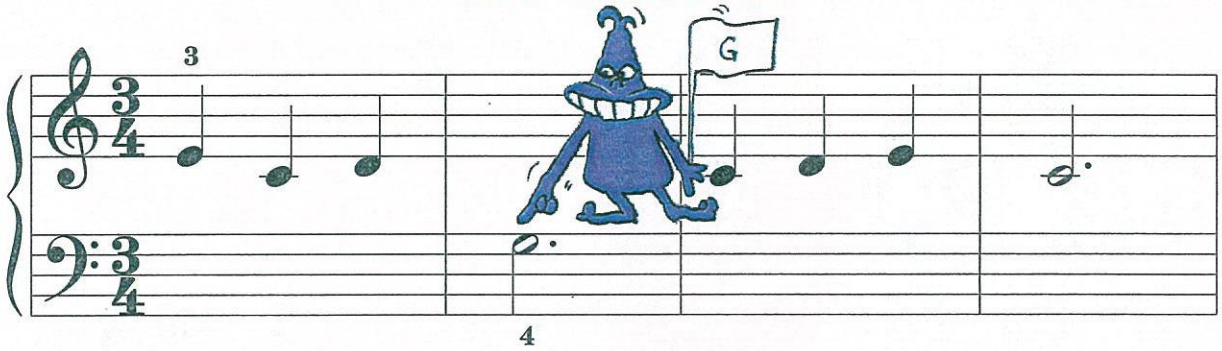


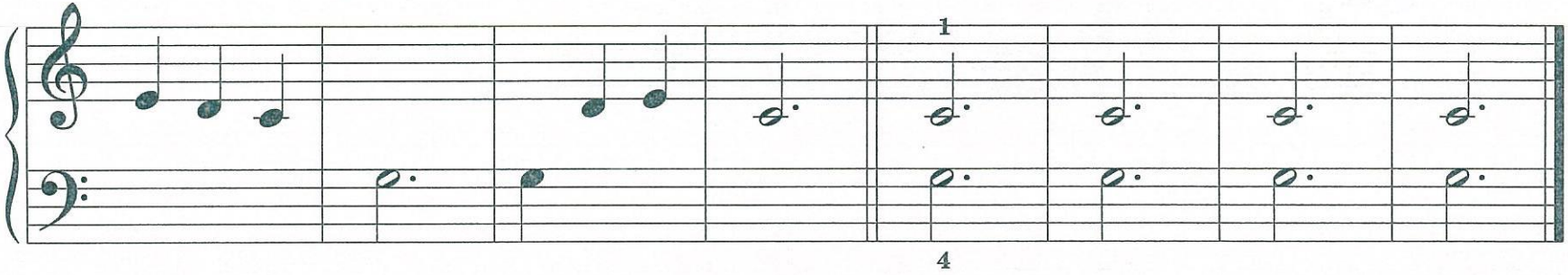
Read Aloud



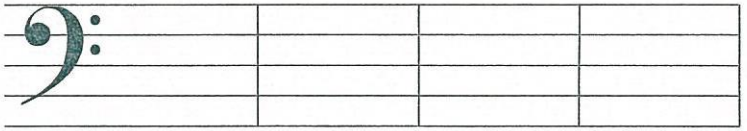
The Chimes





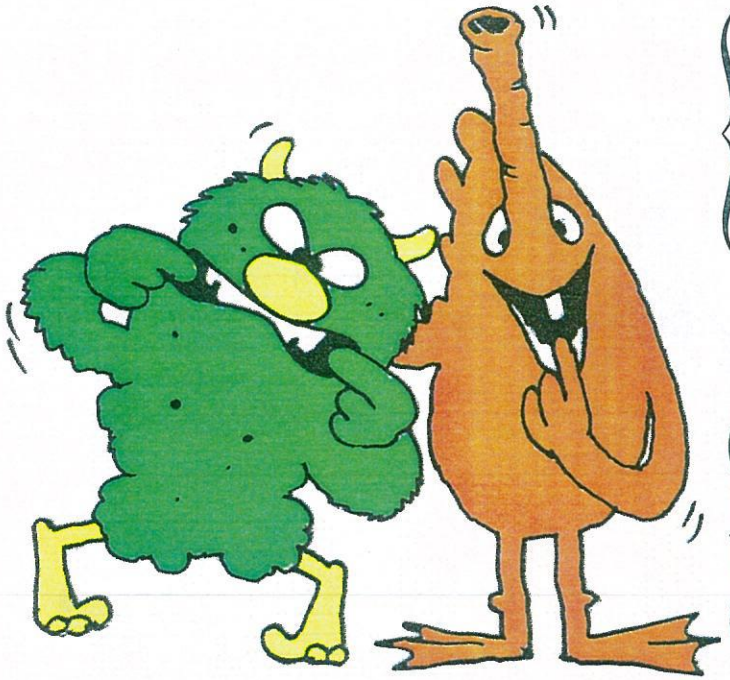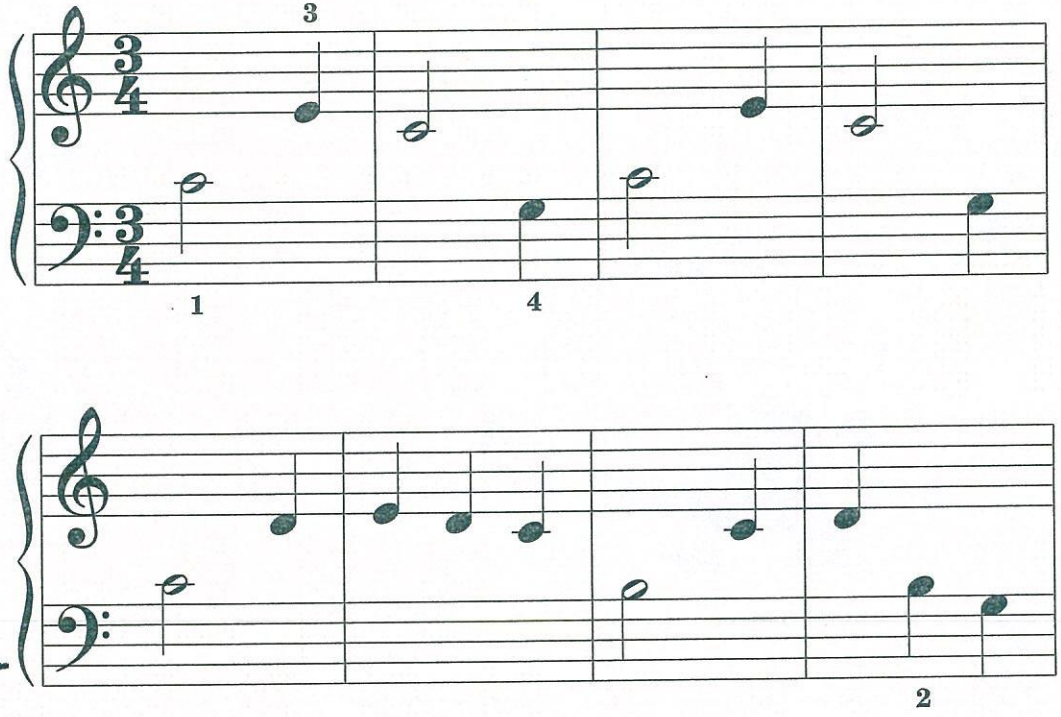


Write the new note **G** below.

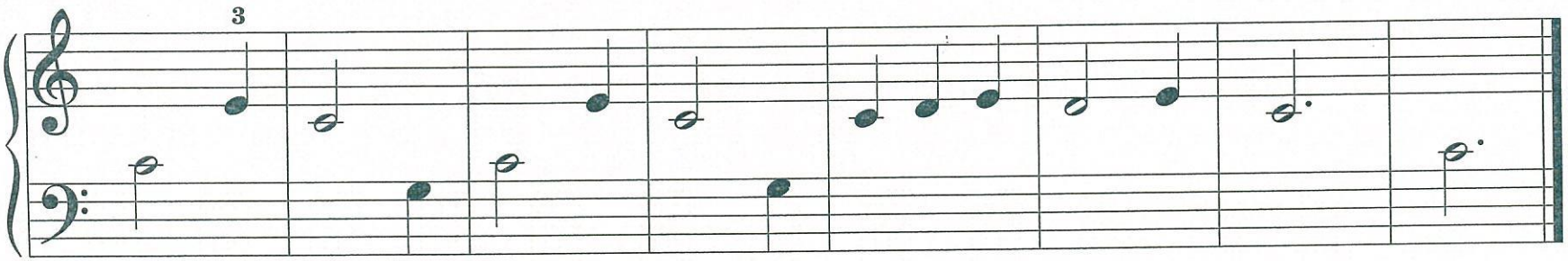


Semibreve Minim Dotted Minim Crotchet

Funny Faces



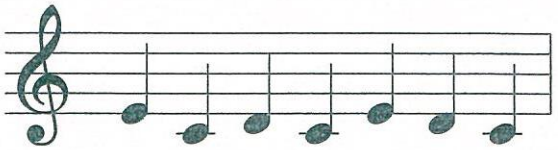




Read Aloud

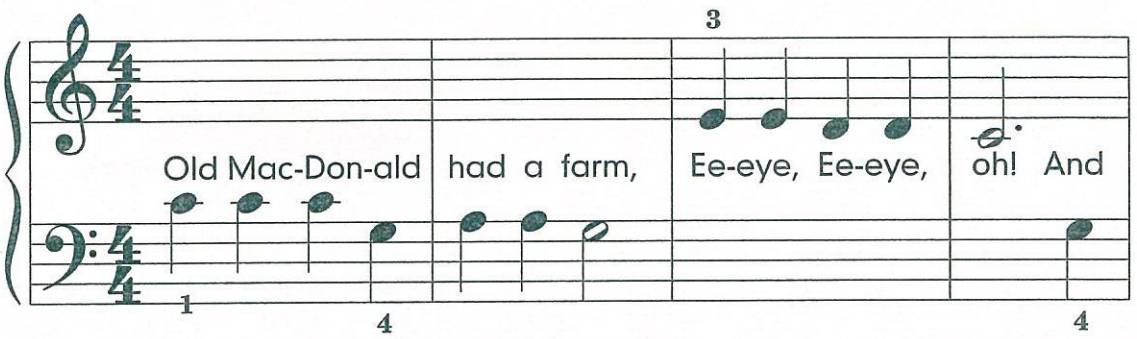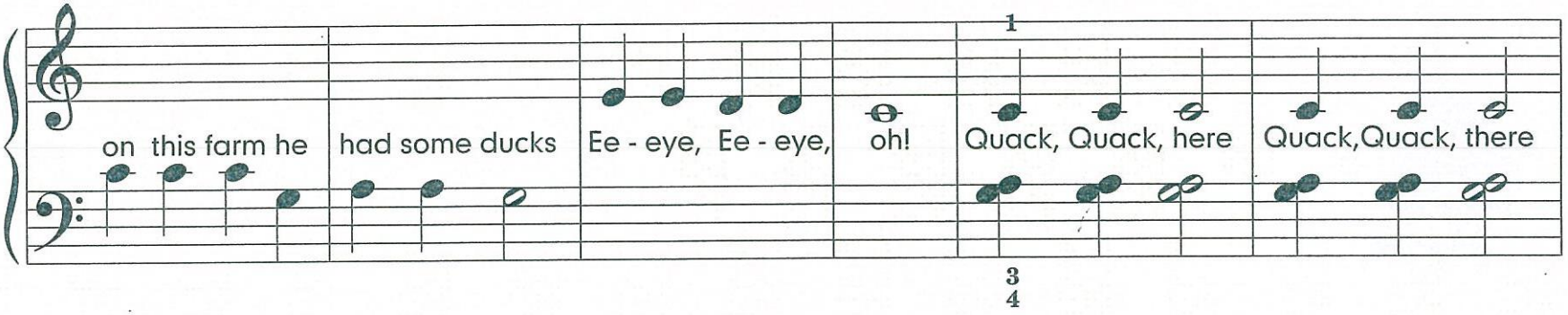


Read Aloud
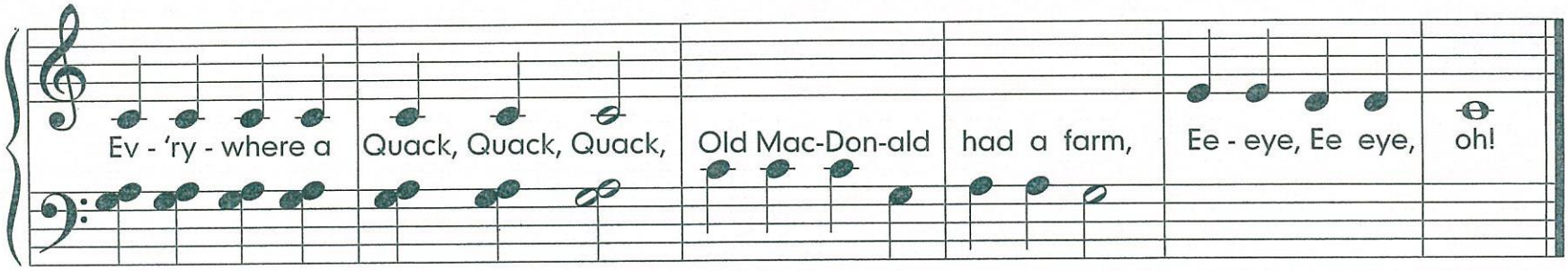




Old MacDonald

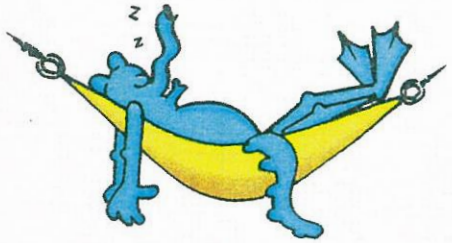




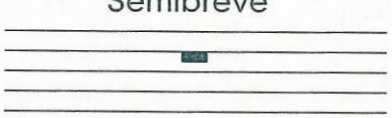


Rests

RESTS are signs of silence. Each kind of note has a rest sign of equal value.



Semibreve



A whole bar's rest
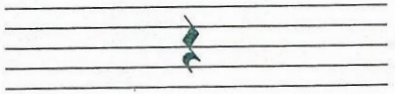


Minim



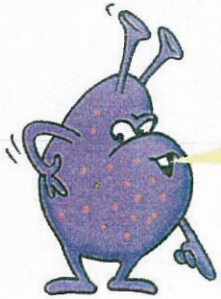
Gets 2 counts
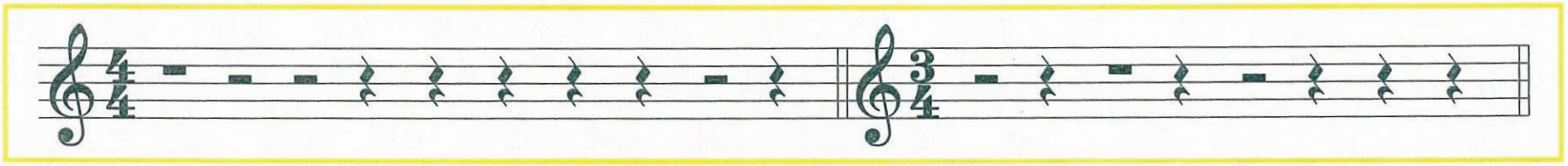


Crotchet



Gets 1 count



Draw the bar lines in the following example, so that each bar will have the number of silent counts shown in the time signature.



Accompaniment to
Blow The Man Down
(next page)

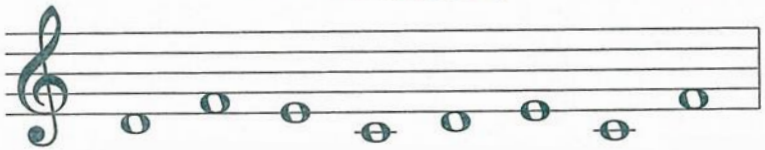


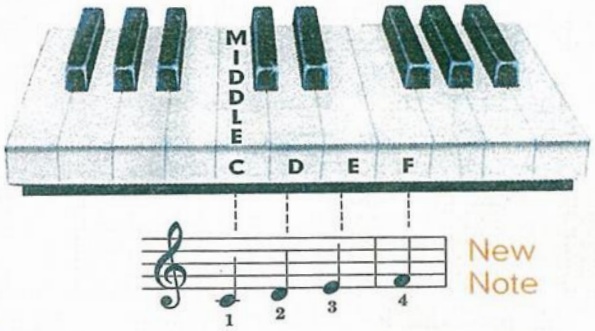
Blow the Man Down



See **Accompaniment** on opposite page.

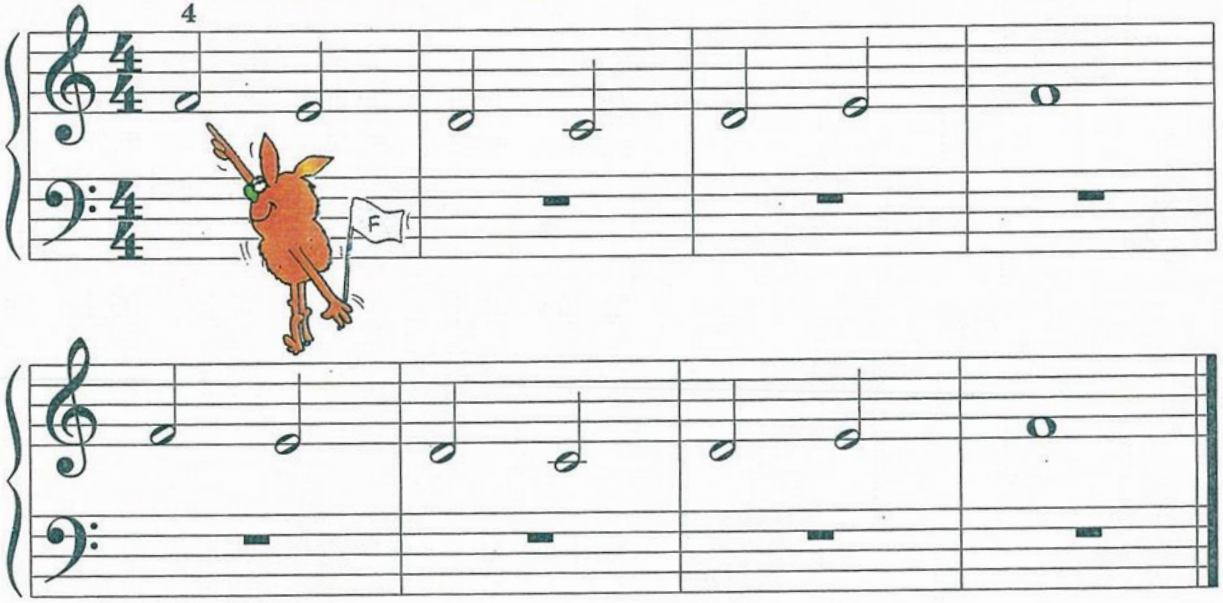
Read Aloud





The Church Organ

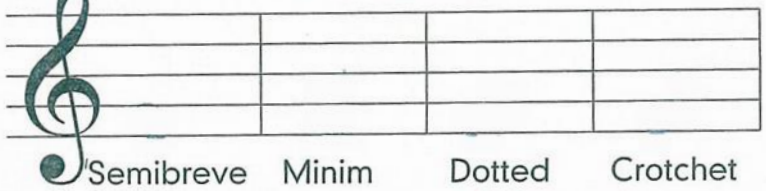




Accompaniment
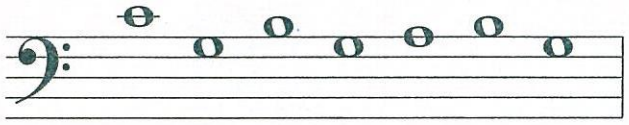


Write the new note **F** below.



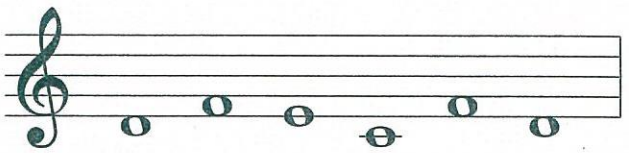
Semibreve Minim Dotted Minim Crotchet

Read Aloud
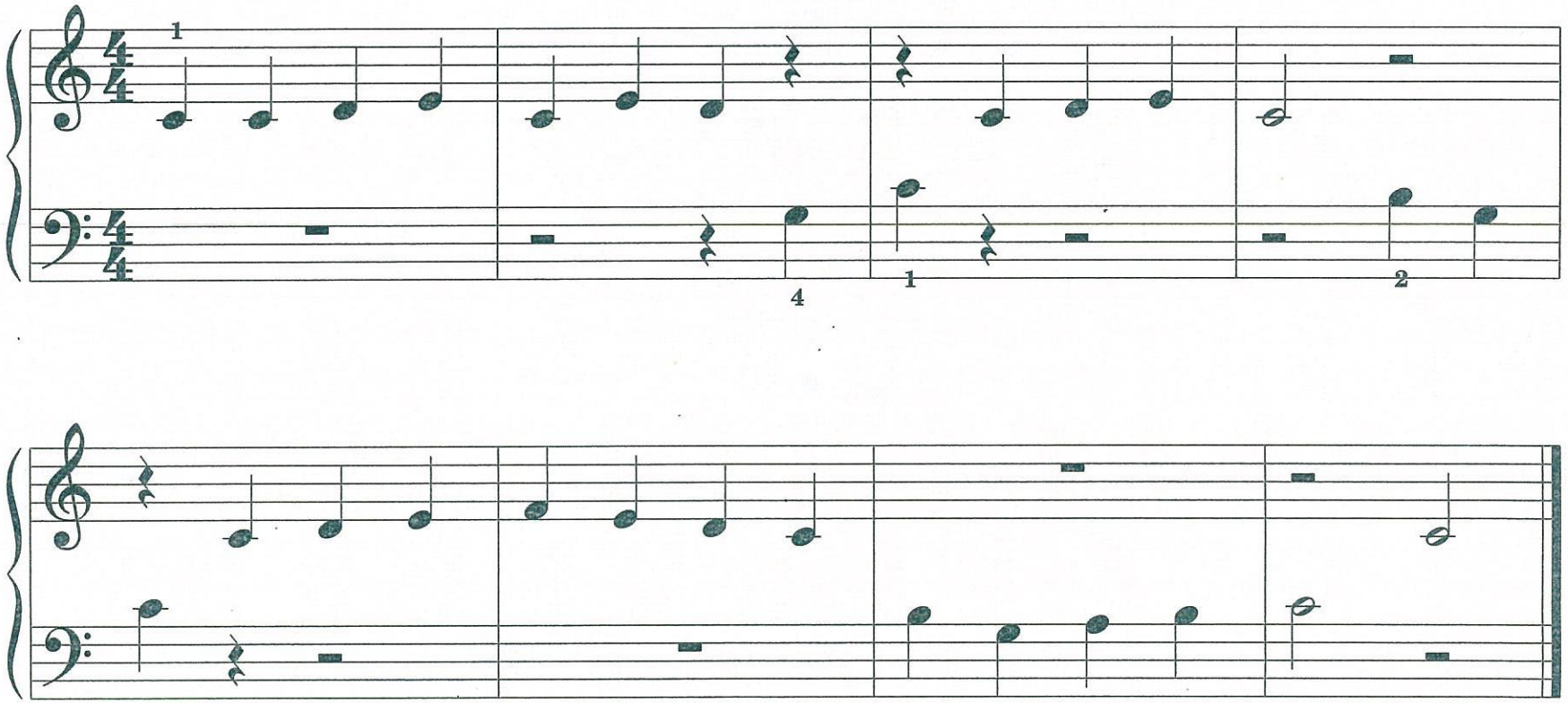




Read Aloud



Yankee Doodle



Carry Me Back to Old Virginny

James A. Bland
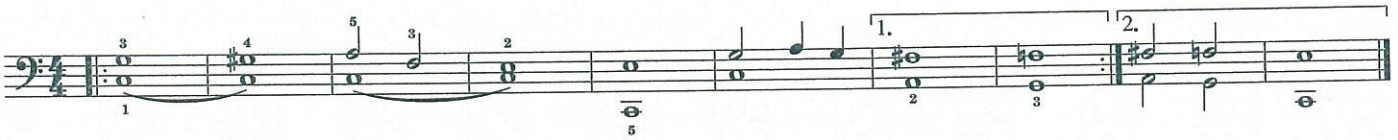


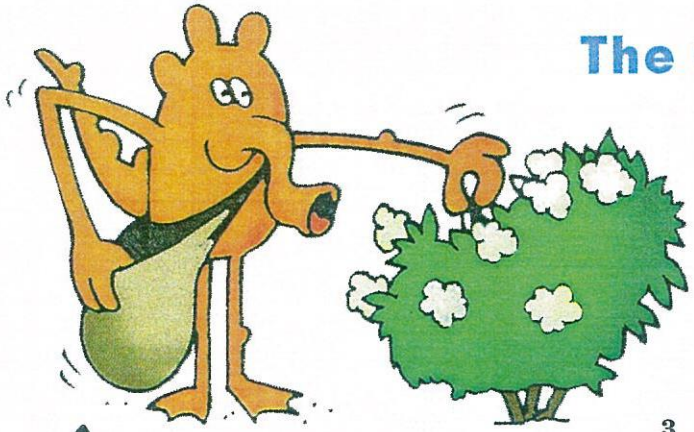
Car - ry me back to old Vir - gin - ny,

There's where the cot - ton and the corn and 'ta -toes grow, There's where the birds war - ble

Sweet in the spring-time, There's where the old wea - ry heart am longed to go.

Accompaniment





The Old Cotton Picker

THE TIE

When two notes are tied together, the second note is not struck but held for its full value.

Tie

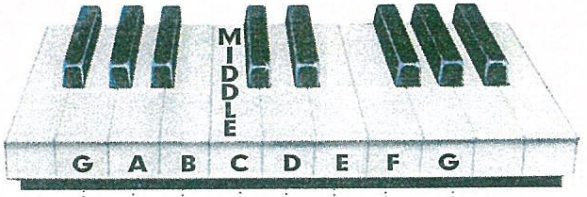
Pick - in' cot-ton, I've not for - got - ten, The hours I've spent in the sun.

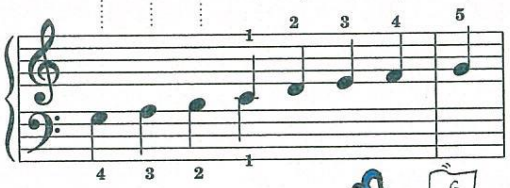
Bend - in' o - ver, you're not in clo - ver, The work is no-bod-y's fun.

Accompaniment

R.H.

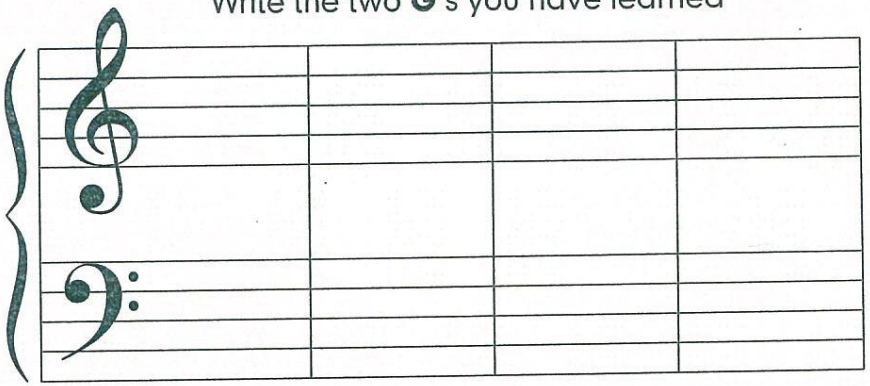
L.H.





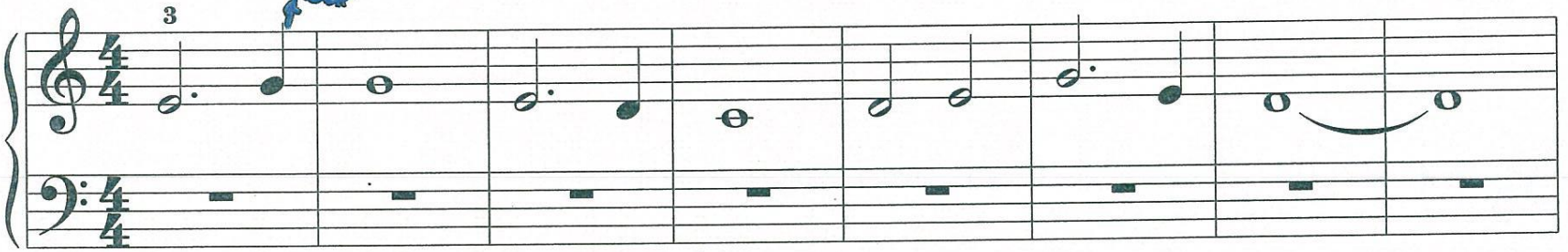
New Note

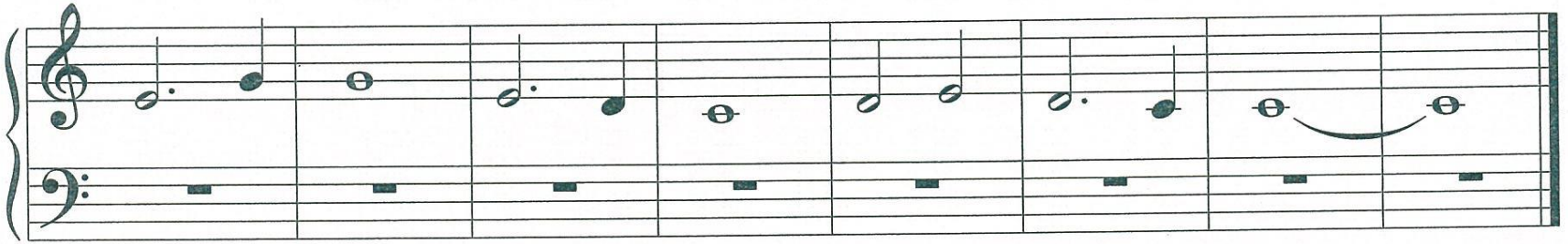
Write the two **G**'s you have learned





Theme from 'New World' Symphony
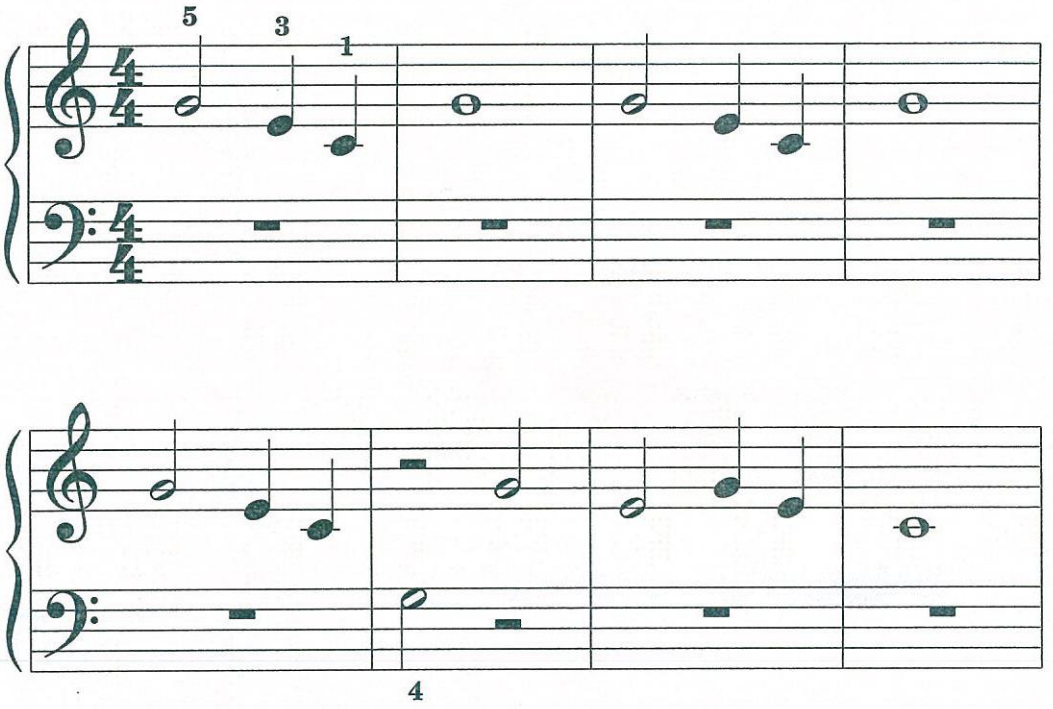




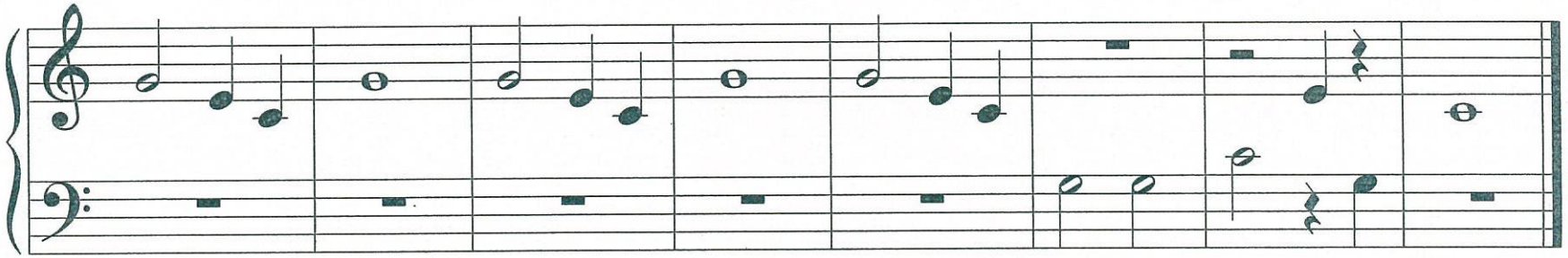
Accompaniment



Bugles!

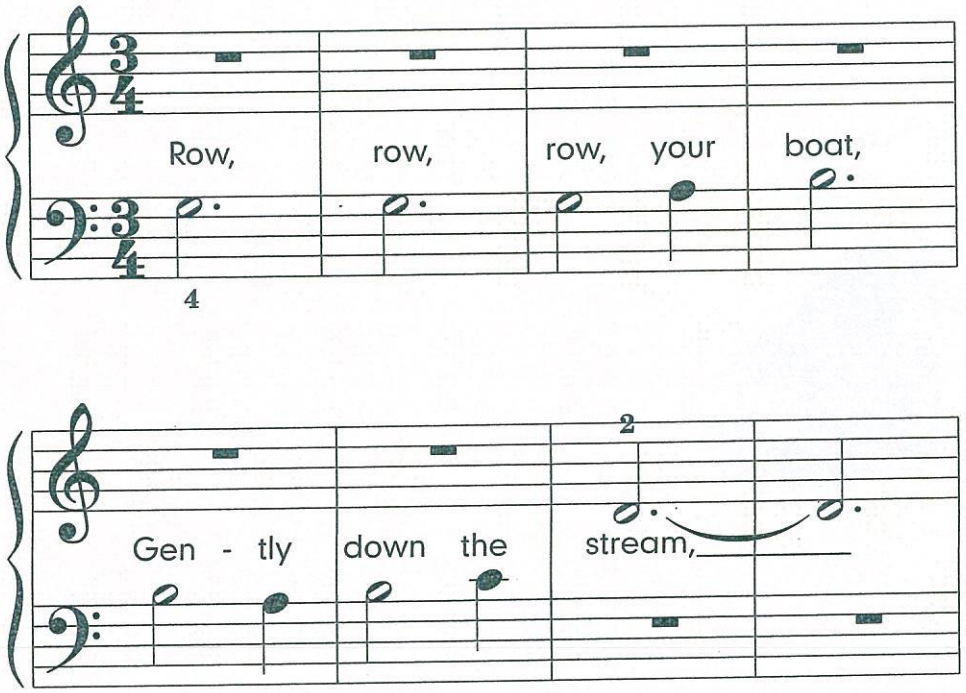






Row, Row



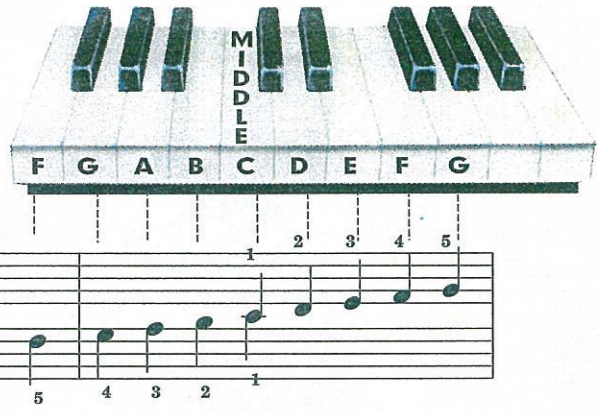

Row, row, row, your boat,
Gen - tly down the stream,
Mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, oh! Life is but a dream.

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen

Spiritual



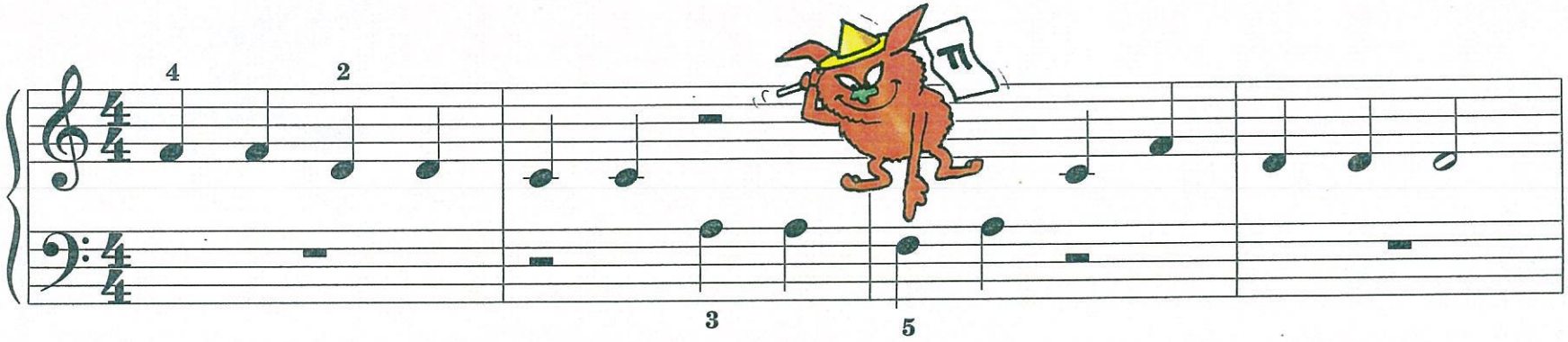
Accompaniment



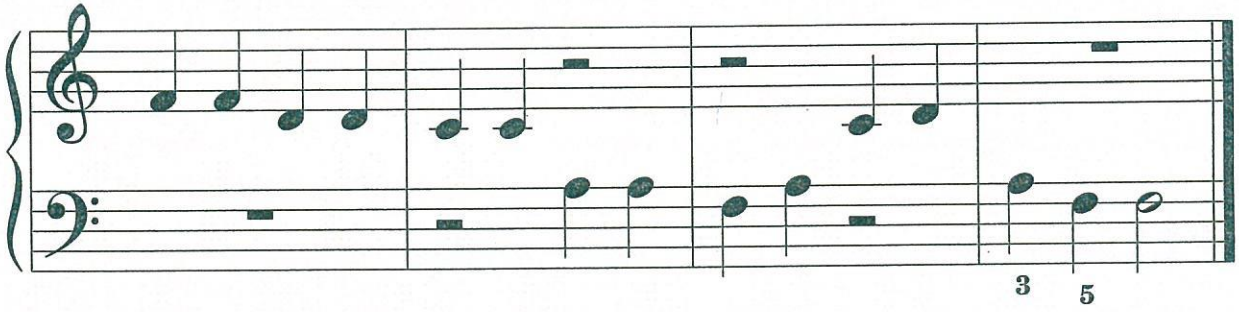
Write the two **F**'s you have learned.

Semibreve	Minim	Dotted Minim	Crotchet

In a Rickshaw



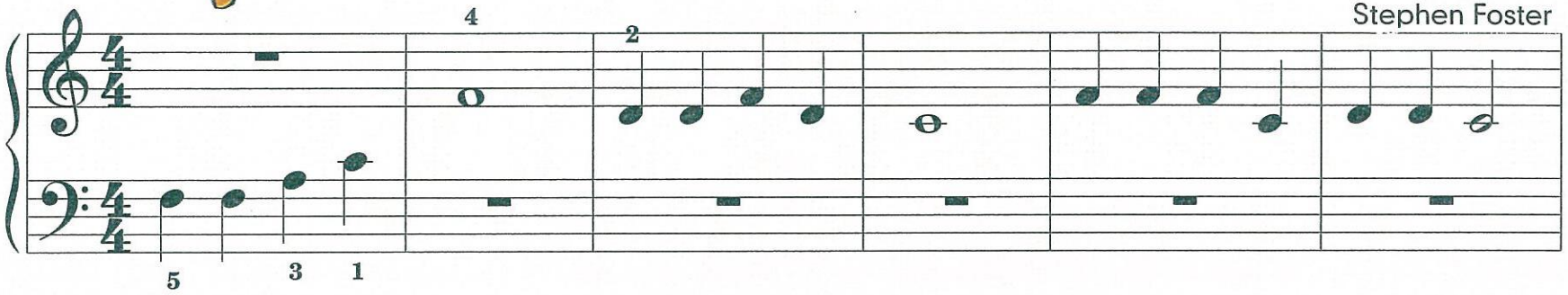


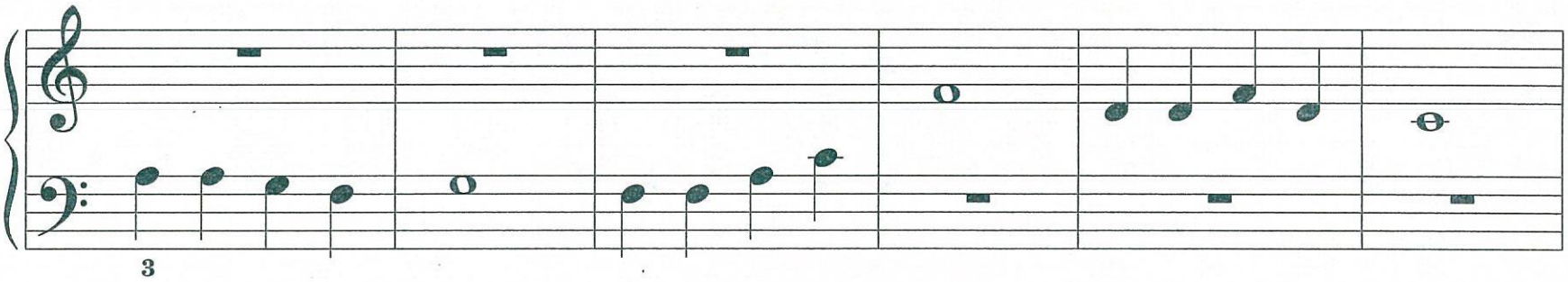


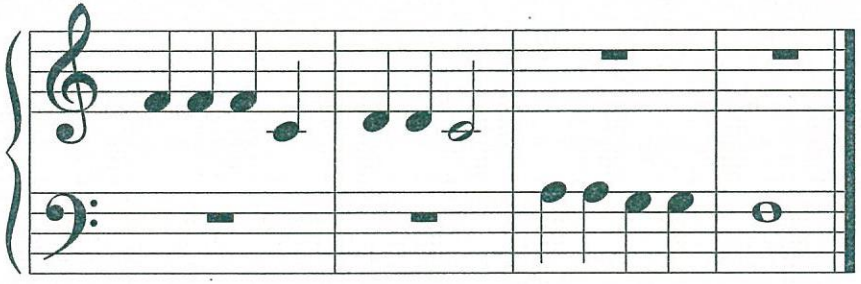


The Banjo Picker
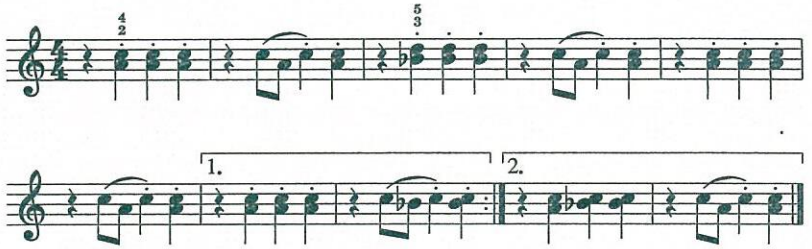
Adapted from
Stephen Foster



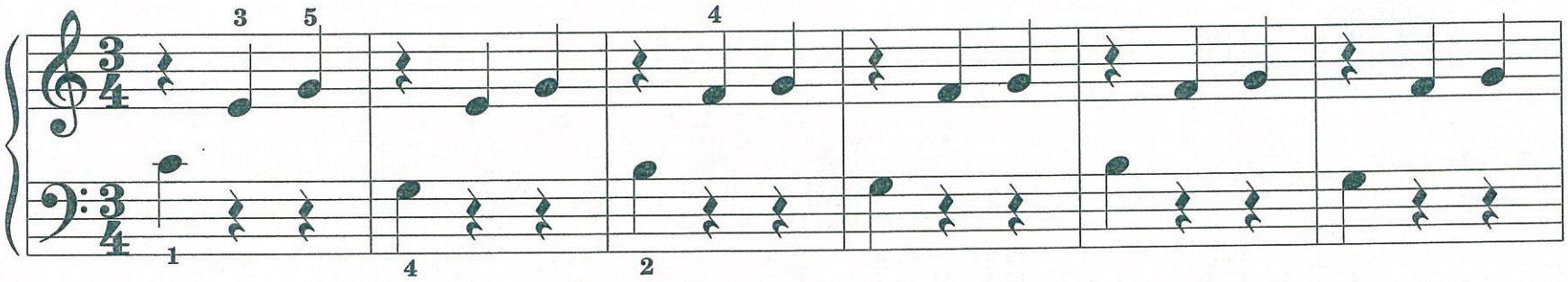


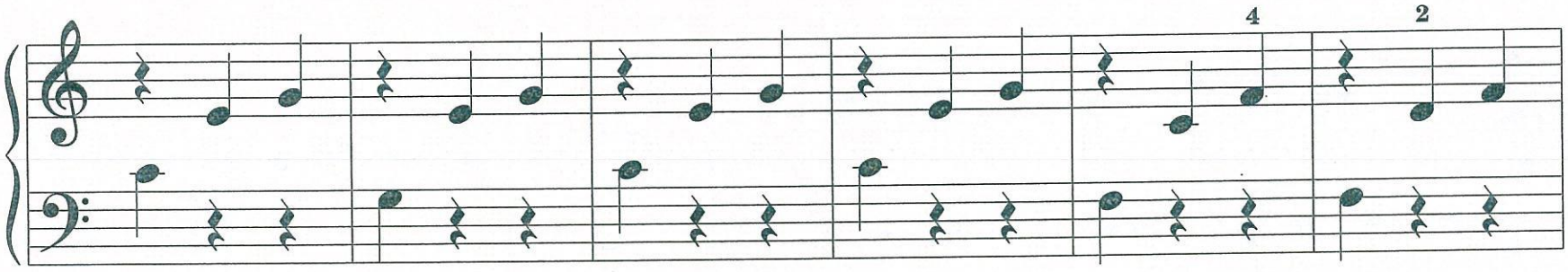


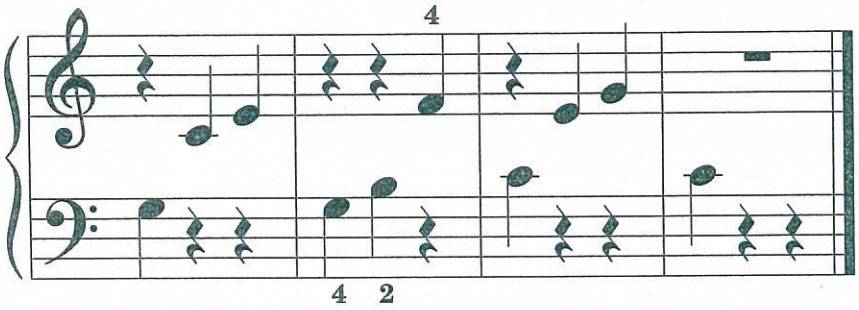
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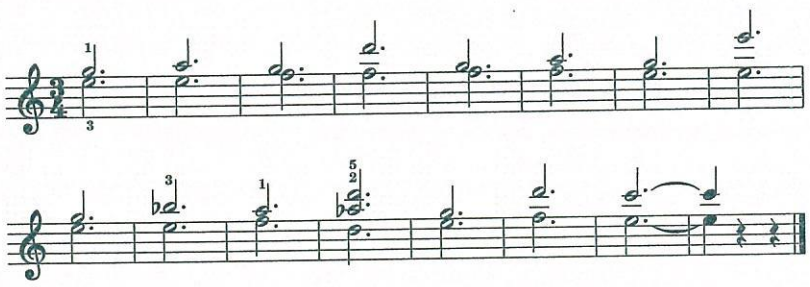


Princess Waltz







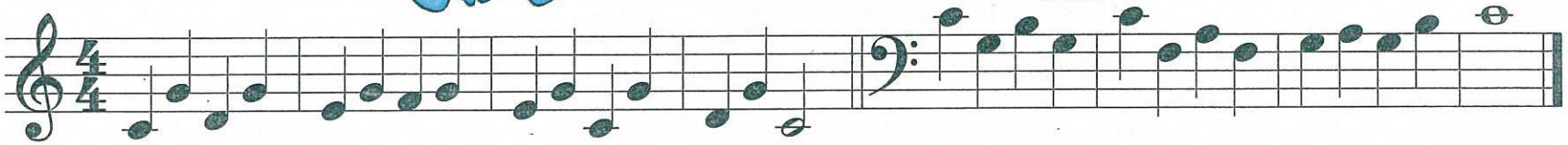
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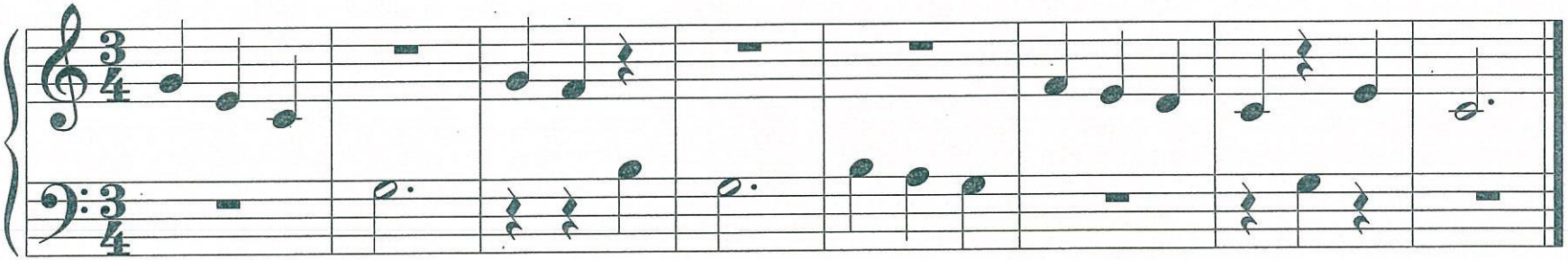
Work Sheet



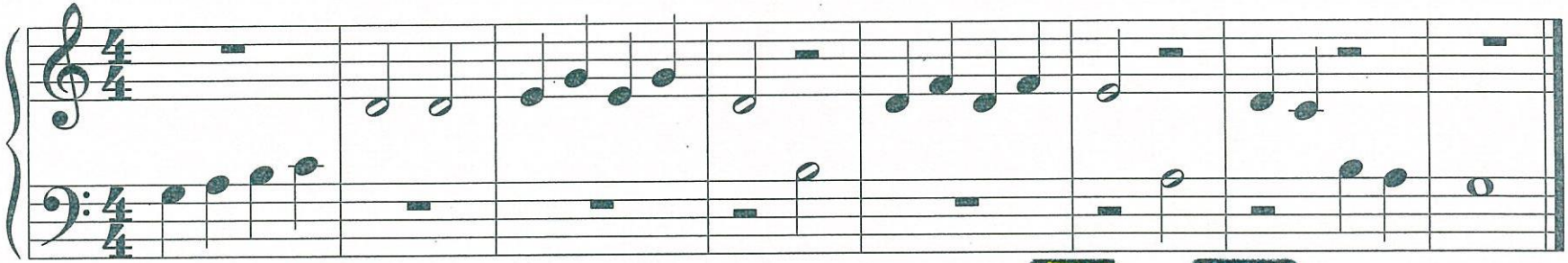


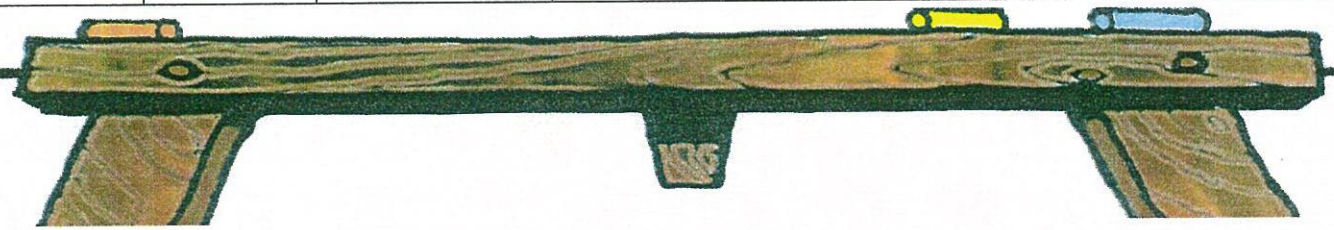
(Write letter names)

Clap the time (one clap to each count) while reciting the letter names of the notes.
Afterwards, play the example on your piano, first marking the fingering for each note.



Clap the time and recite the notes as above.
Mark the fingering, then play on the piano.





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