

Banana rap

written by Jane Sebba
arranged by Missak Takoushian

What is it	A fun rhythmic chant to be performed with actions, highlighting high-, medium- and low-pitched voices.
What happens	Tell the story as it's written, with a strong rhythmic pulse throughout. Vary the voices as the three animals speak their lines: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• high and squeaky (but still intelligible) for the flea• mid-range and cheeky for the monkey• low and weighty for the elephant Add actions throughout if you want.
What we've given you	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the words of the chant• a recording with all the voices (narrator, flea, monkey, elephant) to help you learn the chant• a recording with narrator only so you can practice filling in with the flea, monkey and elephant• a recording with no voices at all: you fill in the narrator, flea, monkey and elephant.
Teaching tips	You'll barely need to teach this. Let the class listen to it a few times. They'll pick it up very quickly and will soon know it better than you do!
How to perform it	Either <ul style="list-style-type: none">• everyone can perform throughout or <ul style="list-style-type: none">• choose 3 soloists or small groups to be the flea, the monkey and the elephant, and everyone else takes the narrator's part or <ul style="list-style-type: none">• choose a soloist or small group to be the narrator and divide the rest of the class into fleas, monkeys and elephants.
What your students are learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• awareness of different vocal timbres• co-ordinating actions with words• memorising a story/poem• rhythmic speech in unison – using pulse/beat• using high-, medium- and low-pitched voices• use of different textures