**My Violin**

By: Bruce Lansky

My mom brought home a violin

so I could learn to play.

She told me if I practiced hard

I’d play it well someday.

Without a single lesson,

I tried to play a song.

My fiddle squeaked, my fiddle squawked.

The notes came out all wrong.

My little brother fled the room.

Mom covered up her ears.

My puppy dog began to howl.

My sister was in tears.

My dad pulled out his wallet.

He handed me a ten.

He made me swear I’d never play

that violin again.

Adapted By

Kelsey Stark

**Grade Level:** 3rd-5th

**Number of readers:** About 6 readers, but more could be used during the "all" portions.

**Props:** Kleenex box,wallet, ten-dollar bill, brief case (or anything similar to a violin case)

**Costumes:** 1= normal street clothing 2= dress and apron 3= dress, tights, and a bow in hair 4 = suit coat and tie. 5 = backwards baseball cap (and floppy ears like a puppy.)

**Use in curriculum:** I would connect this choral reading to a science class learning specifically about sound. I would explain frequency, wavelength, and how exactly we are able to hear the different sound/pitches of a violin. We would explore exactly why the violin's pitch did not sound good to the rest of the family.

**Notes:** Each person (#1-5) speaking has a specific role to play. #1 = main character #2 = mom, #3 = sister, #4 = dad, #5 = brother. Each of these individuals should know their role and change their voices and actions to match that personality. All family members (#2-5) of the main character (#1) should read in an annoyed voice when it fits the text, while #1 should recite lines in a more optimistic tone.

Blocking

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Spoken Line** | **Speakers** | **Formation** | **Actions** |
| *ENTER STAGE:* |  |  | #3,4,5 enter stage right (SR.) #5 stops upper stage left (USL,) #4 stops center stage (CS,) #3 stops upper stage right (USR.) #1,2 enter stage left (SL.) #2 stops downstage right (DSR) and #1 stops downstage left (DSL.) |
| My Violin by Bruce Lansky | All |  | ALL stand straight and still while speaking |
| My mom brought home a violin | 2 |  | #2 speaks line first, then walks DSL and sets a violin case near feet of #1. |
| So I could learn to play. | 1 |  | #1 pretends to be playing violin - move right arm up and down over left arm. #2 stays still in same position. |
| She told me if I practiced hard | 2 |  | #2 points finger at #1. |
| I’d play it well someday. | 1 |  | #1 puts hands on hips and faces audience looking proud. #2 walks to original position DSR. |
| Without a single lesson, | 2,3,4,5 |  | Line is said, then #3 paces towards USL, #5 paces towards USR. #4 paces between center stage left (CSL) and CS. #2 paces between center stage right (CSR) and CS. Those pacing shake their heads, pull out their hair, and look annoyed. #1 moves to downstage center (DSC.)  |
| I tried to play a song. | 1 |  | #2,3,4,5 continue pacing. #1 stays in position. |
| My fiddle squeaked, | 1 |  | #1 puts hand over left ear.  |
| my fiddle squawked. | 1 |  | #1 puts hand over right ear. |
| The notes came out all wrong. | All |  | #2,3,4,5 stop pacing. ALL put their arms out to the side on the word "notes." |
| My little brother fled the room. | 3 |  | #1,2,4 squat down. #5 slowly fake runs to edge of USR. |
| Mom covered up her ears. | 3,5 |  | #2 stands up and covers ears, while #5 returns back to original position, USR. #3,5 shout line at #2 and point. |
| My puppy dog began to howl. | 4 |  | #3,5 squat down. #4 stands up. #2 puts on puppy ears and howls after the line is spoken by #4.  |
| My sister was in tears. | 5 |  | #2 squats down. #3 stands and pretends to cry. #5 stands, says line, and motions to #3 while #4 walks to USL and hands #3 a Kleenex |
| My dad pulled out his wallet. | 3 |  | #5 squats down. #3 squats after line is said.#4 pulls a wallet out of his back pocket, lifts it high in the air, and travels DSC to #1, who stands when he arrives. |
| He handed me a ten. | 4 |  | #4 gives a ten-dollar bill to #1. #2,3,5 stand, curiously watching what is happening. |
| He made me swear I’d never play that violin again. | 1 |  | After #4 gives #1 the money he walks straight off DSL. #1 shrugs as line is said. |
| *EXIT STAGE:* |  |  | #4 comes back on stage. All participants make a line DS and bow. All then exit DSL.  |