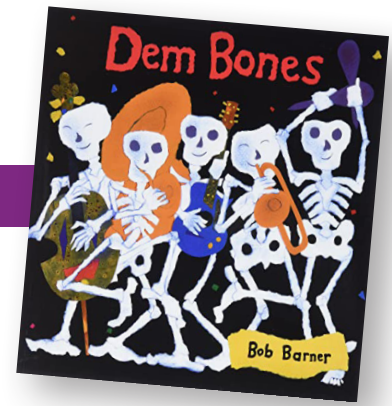


Dem Bones



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 ask “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.

