THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA

Music That Tells a Spooky Story
Musical Stories

Objective:

Students will read three short stories and match the story to the music by identifying musical elements.

Materials & Setup:

- Story page
- Story worksheet

Activity:

1. Read the three short stories as a class. Identify the parts of each story (beginning, middle, and end) and record them on the Story worksheet. Ask students to identify the setting and any additional elements or characters that are important.

2. Next, introduce or ask students to list elements of music. Include and define elements such as rhythm, melody, tempo, articulation, and orchestration.

   - Rhythm – patterns of notes; long and short
   - Melody – patterns of pitches; high and low
   - Tempo – speed; fast or slow
   - Dynamics – volume; loud and soft
   - Orchestration – which instrument(s) or instrument families play

3. Now listen to the first excerpt. Ask students to identify some of the musical elements that make it sound spooky. Which musical elements could portray one of the story elements (i.e. setting, characters, plot), and why?

4. Listen to the remaining excerpts, and repeat step three. See if students can match each musical excerpt to the story it portrays.

   ANSWER KEY:
   Cinderella = Music 2
   Mountain King = Music 1
   Superstition = Music 3