

Drum-Related, Multicultural Picture Books

An annotated bibliography* assembled for VSA Vermont

<http://www.vsavt.org/>

- Bootman, Colin. (2009). *The Steel Pan Man of Harlem*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books. ISBN 978-0-8225-9026-2. In this version of the *Pied Piper*, a stranger from Trinidad gets everyone in New York's Harlem, including rats, dancing. The author/illustrator identifies the original message of Browning's poem: "the importance of doing the right thing and keeping one's word."
- Bouchard, David. (2006). *Nokum is my teacher*. Ill. Allen Sapp. CD song by Northern Cree Singers. Calgary, Canada: Red Deer Press. ISBN 0-88995-367-8. The text of this modern story of a boy in central Canada asking his grandmother why he should learn to read is presented in English and Cree. Read along in English while hearing the cadence of a first nation's language on the audio CD, then listen to the drum of a pow-wow song.
- Coleman, Evelyn. (1988). *To be a drum*. Ill. Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co. ISBN 0-8075-8006-6. Richly illustrated, this inspiring text gives a history of African-Americans, connecting the "earth's heartbeat" to becoming a drum through times of challenge and success.
- James, J. Alison. (1999). *The drums of Noto Hanto*. Ill. Tsukushi. New York: DK Publishing. ISBN 0-7894-2574-2. Based on a true story, children and adults use drums of all sizes to protect their Japanese island from invaders. The drum is more powerful than the sword.
- Lessac, Frané. (2005). *Island counting 1 2 3*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press. ISBN 0-7636-1960-4. There are "eight drummers drumming" in this colorful visit to the Caribbean where sights and sounds can be counted in an easy, read-along fashion.
- Martin, Bill, Jr., & Archambault, John. (1989). *Chicka chicka boom boom*. Ill. Lois Ehlert. New York: Simon & Schuster. ISBN 978-0-671-67949-1. Beat a drum to help the letters crowd into the coconut tree. "Chicka chicka boom boom! Will there be enough room?"
- McBratney, Sam. (2003). *Guess how much I love you* (dual language ed.). Ill. Anita Jeram. Trans. Rajae Hanafi. London, United Kingdom: Magi Publications. ISBN 1-85430-988-9. A simple drumbeat could accompany this dialog between Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare. Children can be introduced to Arabic lettering and right-to-left reading because each page has text in both Arabic and English.
- Perkins, Al. (1969). *Hand, hand, fingers, thumb*. Ill. Eric Gurney. New York: Random House. Personified monkeys bang on drums in this early reader text. Be cautious of depictions of posture and expressions that may promote ethnic stereotypes.
- Pinkney, Brian. (1994). *Max found two sticks*. New York: Simon & Schuster. ISBN 0-671-78776-4. Max doesn't need to say a word in this family-oriented story set in a modern city. His drumsticks communicate the sound of pigeons, raindrops, and much more!

Protopopescu, Orel. (2007). *Two sticks*. Ill. Anne Wilsdorf. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. ISBN-13: 978-0-374-38022-9. Fanciful tale of a girl who taps on anything with her drumsticks, including the crocodiles surrounding her in a swamp. The lilting, rhythmic language makes listeners want to dance.

Webb, Steve. (2003). *Tanka, Tanka, Skunk*. New York: Orchard Books, Scholastic. ISBN 0-439-57844-2. Children can learn syllables and sounds as they watch brightly illustrated animals bounce across the pages to the beat of big bass drums.

*Annotations by Robert T. Ackland, Professor of Literacy Education, State University of New York College at Plattsburgh. The assistance of Mary Graf from the Brownell Library in Essex Junction <http://www.brownelllibrary.org/> and Peggy Rainville from VSA Vermont in Burlington is gratefully acknowledged. This project is dedicated to the childcare providers, artists, and children throughout Vermont connected to the Start With The Arts program at VSA VT. These books are available at many public libraries and through inter-library loan. If you would like to suggest additional titles, please send them to robert.ackland@plattsburgh.edu. (8-20-2014)