

The Dragon Who Loved Music

By Rose Armentrout

Once upon a time oh Best Beloved (all the best stories start this way), there was a Dragon, a really huge Dragon. And when this huge Dragon walked, his huge feet went *ba-boom, ba-boom*. And when this huge dragon walked, his huge scales went *cha-ching, cha-ching*. And when this huge dragon walked his huge tail swayed, *swish, swish, swish*.

Now, this Dragon loved music more than anything. One day, as he was walking through the woods, *ba-boom, ba-boom, cha-ching, cha-ching, swish, swish, swish*, he heard the sound of music. He followed the sound to a little girl picking flowers. As she picked she sang, “*do-re-me-fa-so-la-ti-do, do-te-la- so- fa- me- re- do*”. Enchanted, he said, “Little girl, I love your singing!” But, he was speaking dragon and so, of course, it sounded like, “**ROAR!**” The little girl screamed and ran, *pitapat, pitapat, pitapat*. The Dragon ran after her, *ba-boom, ba-boom, ba-boom, cha-ching, cha-ching, swish, swish, swish*. The little girl ran faster! *Pitapat, pitapat, pitapat!* The Dragon called out, “Stop! I just want to hear you sing that good and sweet song again!” But, he was still speaking dragon so, of course, it sounded like, “**ROAR!**” The little girl ran even faster! *Pitapat, pitapat, pitapat*. The poor dragon was so upset he sat down, *ka-thump*-and began to cry huge dragon tears, *plop,plop,plop*. The little girl was running, *pitapat, pitapat*, when suddenly she realized there was no sound of *ba-boom, ba-boom*, behind her. She stopped and looked back to see the Dragon, sitting and crying pitiful dragon tears, *plop, plop, plop*. Now, the little girl didn’t understand dragon but she did understand sad. And, she knew that music was the perfect way to help with sad. So, from a safe distance she sang (he was after all, a dragon), “*do-re-me-fa-so-la-ti-do, do-ti-la-so-fa-me-re-do*”. The dragon stopped crying! Moving closer and singing a little more bravely, the little girl sang again, “*do-re-me-fa-so-la-ti-*

do, do-ti-la-so-fa-me-re-do”. The dragon smiled. The little girl smiled back. And from that day on, oh Best Beloved, the little girl went to the forest everyday to pick flowers and sing “do-re-me-fa-so-la-ti-do, do-ti-la-so-fa-me-ra-do”. And, as she sings, her good friend the dragon walks behind, ba-boom, ba-boom, ba-boom, cha-ching, cha-ching, cha-ching, swish, swish, swish and smiling a huge dragon smile.

The End

Telling the story:

Pat your knees with appropriate rhythm for the sound of the footsteps.

Use your hands to show the rattle of the scales.

Stretch out your arm and slowly move it side to side to show the sway of the tail.

Encourage the children to join in the above actions. They will most likely scream when the dragon roars so incorporate that into the story. ...the little girl screamed-just like you.”

Sing the musical scale and, after the 1st time, invite the children to sing it with you. You can also substitute this with the ABC song, or a song of your choice.