



Michael Row the Boat Ashore

Traditional Spiritual from Georgia Sea Islands
presents major tonality, even meter and encourages creative substitutions

Using the Song

Formally

Sitting on the floor, pantomime rowing a boat to the beat. Be sure your whole torso rocks forward and back with your arms. Children may sit on your lap or across your legs, holding hands, as you row each other back and forth. You may sit all lined up on the floor on in front of the other and row a large boat together. Sing the song, inventing at least one verse for each child. You may also be creative with the corresponding gestures and actions.

Also works well for free instrument play.

Informally

Try using *Michael Row the Boat Ashore*

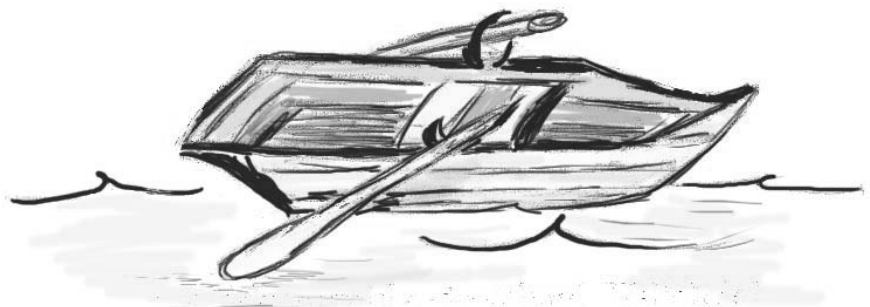
- to assign chores. “*Deborah put the toys away Alleluia. Manuel set the table now. Alleluia.*”
- to narrate any travel or activity. “*We will drive the car to Church. Alleluia.*” “*Cecelia’s gonna take a bath. Alleluia.*”
- at the store. “*Jordan rides in the shopping cart, Alleluia.....Mommy pushes him around, Alleluia.....*”
- to celebrate! “*Jimmy finally ate his peas. Alleluia!*”

Milestones to Observe

- Rocking back and forth, imitating the class time activity when listening to the song.
- Participating passively and then more actively in the rowing movements.
- Joining in on all or part of the song, possibly just the “Alleluia” for beginning talkers.
- Creating new actions or lyrics and using the song spontaneously through the day.

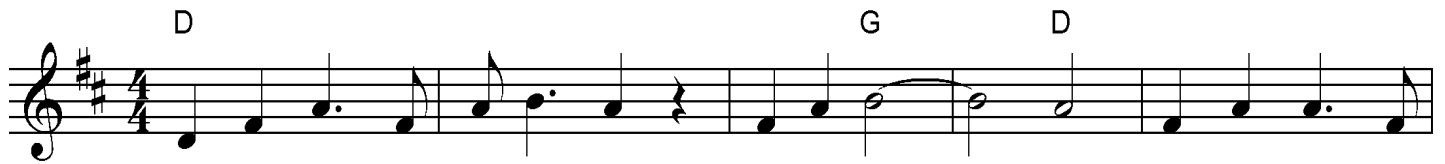
Cross References

Pg. 46 (Sit and Sing)
Pg. 47 (Creative Substitutions)
Pg. 51 (Free Instrument Play)



Michael Row the Boat Ashore

Traditional
Some new lyrics by K Daneluk



Mi - chael row the boat a - shore, Hal - le - lu - ia! Mi - chael row the
Ja - son ride the train to town, Hal - le - lu - ia! Ja - son ride the



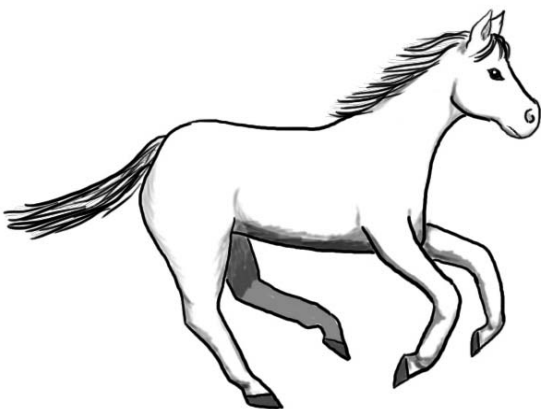
boat a - shore, Hal - le - lu - - - - ia!
train to town, Hal - le - lu - - - - ia!



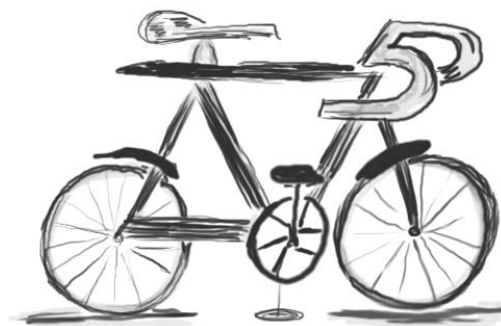
Rachel, fly your plane up high, Alleluia!



Emma, drive your car back home, Alleluia!



Paul, go canter on your horse, Alleluia!



Leslie, ride your bike to school, Alleluia!