



Jungle Jazz

by Jo van Dam and Deborah Hinde

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RRP: \$21.99

A story to hum along to

Fans of Jo van Dam's previous picture books will be pleased to see a new title added to her stable. Moonlighting as a primary school librarian when she's not writing, Jo knows what makes books appeal to young readers (that's why she's been a finalist for the Children Choice Award at the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young People).

Jungle Jazz does not disappoint. With its rollicking upbeat tone and funky sounds, young readers will be in stitches as they watch snake – envious as he watches the band play – search for a way to join in. But what can snake do? He can't sing along to a tune or a song. He can't even hum, or bang on a drum! And when he does find a solution to his problem, is it the right one? A fun-filled story about longing and belonging, the joy of music and the greater joy of friendship.



Jungle Jazz and the New Zealand curriculum

Jungle Jazz is the ideal book for use within the Music–Sound Arts branch of the curriculum.

The animals jazz and jive in the jungle, using a variety of instruments and their bodies to make a range of sounds. Traditional and non-traditional ways to make music (like a rattle-snake's tail) are explored, and the individual sounds and feel of music expressed (Cougar taps the conga drums – boom, boom, bong; while howler monkey plays guitar and sings – hoo, ooo, meool; and the humming birds set the rhythm with their hum, hum, hum).

In class, readers can be encouraged to consider different sources and types of sounds, and to make their own – like snake, seeking innovative ways to generate sounds, and from there, music. The story lends itself to discussion of what is music, how do we use it, and what exactly it takes to turn a collection of sounds into a tune.

Jungle Jazz also provides a springboard for early discussions around styles of music, and for interactive storytelling, and improvised dance, music and instrument creation. The purpose and desirability of music within people's lives is the story's underlying theme (although told in a fun way through a band of jazz loving jungle animals) – a theme that can then be explored and contextualised in readers' own families and communities!

The Snakes + Ladders board game in the back cover is perfect for simple mathematics – addition and subtraction problems. Younger children will learn how to decode the dots on the dice and how to apply them to the board game. Older children can practise more complex addition and subtraction problems by using the place numbers on the board in conjunction with the dice.

Book Details

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Illustrator: Deborah Hinde

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