

Our School Orchestra

Sally Cowan

Photographs by Lindsay Edwards



Our School Orchestra

Level 20

Running Words 572 Text Type Description

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); The Arts (Music)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the description in their own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

- 1 What is an orchestra?
- 2 What are the three main groups of instruments in the school orchestra?
- 3 What are some of the percussion instruments in the school orchestra?

Inferential

- 4 Why must children be already learning to play an instrument before they join the orchestra?
- 5 Why would the music teacher be a good conductor for the school orchestra?
- 6 Why is it important for children in the school orchestra to play the right rhythm?
- 7 Why do instruments in the orchestra play different parts?
- 8 Why do people of all ages enjoy listening to an orchestra playing?

Applied Knowledge

- 9 If there was a mouse in 'Peter and the Wolf', which instrument in an orchestra would go with it best?
- 10 Where else can you see an orchestra play, apart from a school hall?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 20	Description	<i>Flamenco Music and Dance</i>
Level 20	Narrative	<i>Yo-bot, the Classroom Robot</i>
Level 19	Exposition	<i>All Kids Should Play Team Sports</i>



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Playing Music Together

There is an orchestra at my school.

The school orchestra is a large group of children who play music together.

They play many kinds of instruments.



I play the violin in the school orchestra.
Every week, we practise playing music
so that we can perform in concerts.



Learning an Instrument

Children must be learning how to play an instrument before they can join the school orchestra.

Once a week, I have a violin lesson.

I learn how to play the violin,
and how to read music.

The music shows me what **notes** to play
and how many **beats** to count.

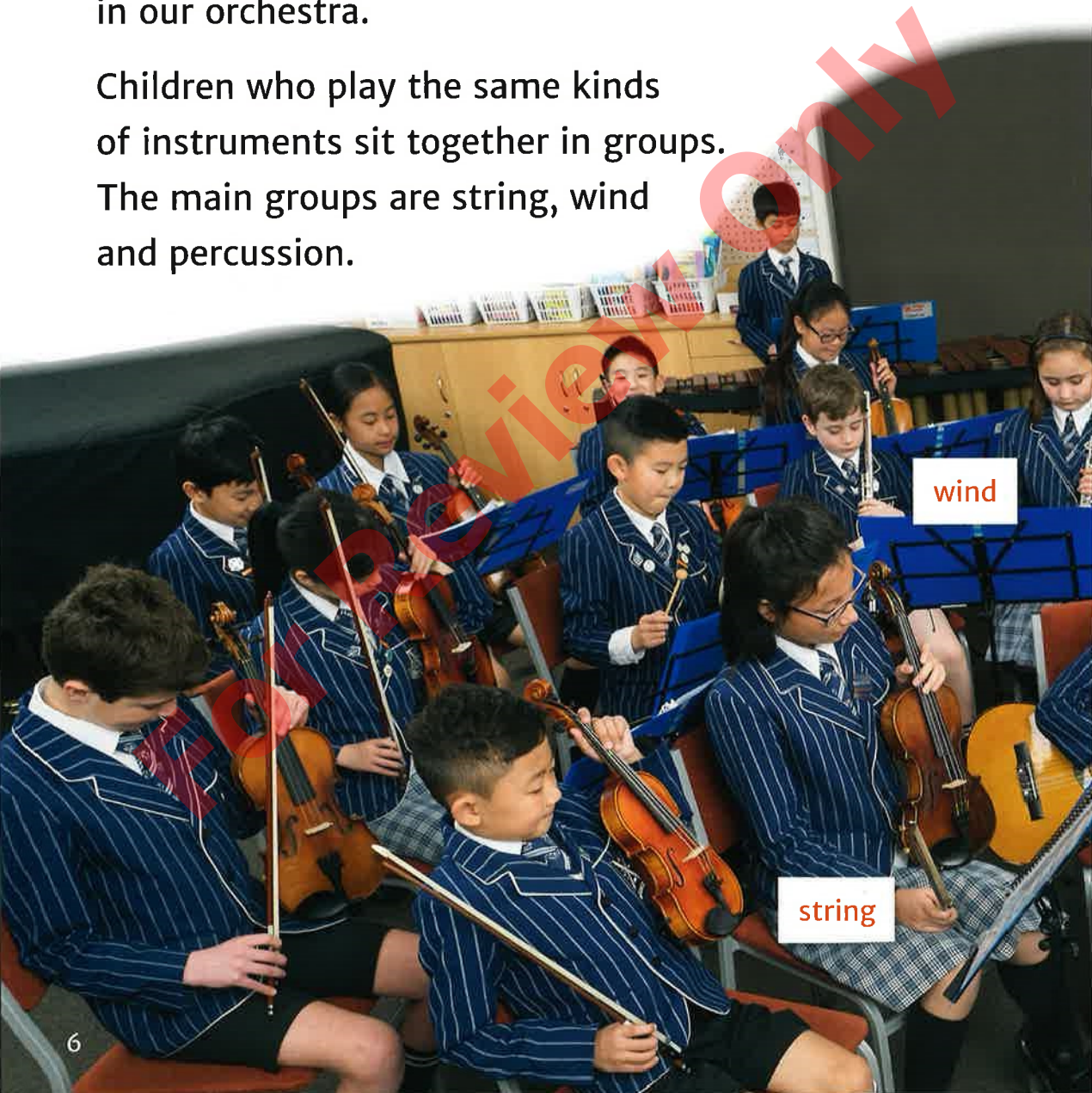
It is important for me to practise
playing my violin every day.



Instruments in the School Orchestra

There are many kinds of instruments in our orchestra.

Children who play the same kinds of instruments sit together in groups. The main groups are string, wind and percussion.



wind

string

The instruments in these groups have their own special sounds.

