Name: _____ Date: _____

The Orchestra Librarian Marks Every Bow Stroke

Circle group

When an orchestra plays, the crowd hears one big sound. Behind that sound is a lot of paper. Someone has to keep it all in order. That person is the orchestra librarian.

Each player reads from a part. A part is a sheet with the notes for one instrument. The conductor reads from a score. A score shows all the instruments at once. For one piece, the librarian may hand out dozens of parts. Each one must go to the right player.

The librarian also marks the music. Think about the string players. Each violinist should move the bow the same way at the same time. If not, the group looks messy and sounds uneven. The librarian writes small signs in pencil to show which way the bow goes. The conductor and the section leaders choose the marks. The librarian copies them into every part.

After the concert, there is more work. The librarian collects all the music. Some pencil marks are erased. Then everything is filed so it can be found again. One missing page can stop a rehearsal. So the librarian counts and checks each time.

Questions

1. What is a part in an orchestra?

_____

_____

2. What does the conductor read from?

_____

_____

3. Why does the librarian mark bow directions?

_____

_____

4. Who chooses the marks?

_____

_____

5. What does the librarian do after the concert?

_____

_____

6. Why does the librarian count and check the music each time?

_____

_____

7. Why would the group look messy without the bow marks?

_____

_____

Words to know

orchestra: a large group of musicians who play together
librarian: a person who takes care of a collection
conductor: the person who leads the musicians
score: written music showing all the parts together
rehearsal: a practice before a show

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Orchestra Librarian Marks Every Bow Stroke

Triangle group

When an orchestra plays, the audience hears one big sound. Behind that sound is a lot of paper. Someone has to keep it all in order. That person is the orchestra librarian.

Each musician reads from a part. A part is a sheet that shows only the notes for that instrument. The conductor reads from a score, which shows every instrument at once. For one piece, the librarian may hand out dozens of parts. Each one must go to the right player.

The librarian also marks the music. In the string section, every violinist should move the bow the same way at the same time. If not, the section would look messy and sound uneven. The librarian pencils small signs into each part to show which way the bow should go. The conductor and section leaders decide these markings. The librarian copies them into every part.

After the concert, the work is not done. The librarian collects all the music and erases some pencil marks. Then everything is filed so it can be found again. One missing page can stop a rehearsal, so the librarian counts and checks every time.

Questions

1. What is a part in an orchestra?

_____

_____

2. What does the conductor read from?

_____

_____

3. Why does the librarian mark the bow directions in the string parts?

_____

_____

4. Who decides the bow markings?

_____

_____

5. What does the librarian do after the concert?

_____

_____

6. Why does the librarian count and check the music every time?

_____

_____

7. Why would the orchestra look messy if the bow markings were left out?

_____

_____

Words to know

orchestra: a large group of musicians who play together
librarian: a person who takes care of a collection
conductor: the person who leads the musicians
score: written music showing all the parts together
rehearsal: a practice before a show

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Orchestra Librarian Marks Every Bow Stroke

Square group

When an orchestra performs, the audience hears one enormous, unified sound. Behind that sound lies an astonishing quantity of paper, and somebody must keep all of it organized. That person is the orchestra librarian.

Each musician reads from a part, which is a sheet displaying only the notes for that particular instrument. The conductor, meanwhile, reads from a score, which presents every instrument simultaneously. For a single piece, the librarian may need to distribute dozens of different parts, and each one has to reach the correct player.

The librarian also performs meticulous marking. In the string section, for instance, every violinist ought to move the bow in the same direction at the same moment. Otherwise the section would appear untidy and sound uneven. The librarian pencils small symbols into each part to indicate the direction of the bow. The conductor and the section leaders determine these markings, and the librarian copies them into every part.

Once the concert is over, the work continues. The librarian gathers all the music, erases certain pencil marks, and files everything so that it can be located again. Because a single missing page can halt a rehearsal, the librarian counts and inspects the music every time.

Questions

1. What is a part in an orchestra?

_____

_____

2. What does the conductor read from?

_____

_____

3. Why does the librarian mark the bow directions in the string parts?

_____

_____

4. Who determines the bow markings?

_____

_____

5. What does the librarian do once the concert is over?

_____

_____

6. Why does the librarian count and inspect the music every time?

_____

_____

7. Why would the section appear untidy if the bow markings were omitted?

_____

_____

Words to know

orchestra: a large group of musicians who play together
librarian: a person who takes care of a collection
conductor: the person who leads the musicians
score: written music showing all the parts together
rehearsal: a practice before a show

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Orchestra Librarian Marks Every Bow Stroke

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Orchestra Librarian Marks Every Bow Stroke

Easier · 188 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. A sheet with the notes for one instrument.
2. A score that shows all the instruments at once.
3. So every player moves the bow the same way at the same time.
4. The conductor and the section leaders.
5. Collects the music, erases some marks, and files it.
6. One missing page can stop a rehearsal.
7. Players might move their bows in different ways, so the group would not look or sound together.

Triangle: The Orchestra Librarian Marks Every Bow Stroke

This passage · 190 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. A sheet that shows only the notes for one instrument.
2. A score that shows every instrument at once.
3. So every player moves the bow the same way at the same time.
4. The conductor and the section leaders.
5. Collects the music, erases some marks, and files it.
6. A single missing page can stop a rehearsal.
7. Players might move their bows in different directions, so the section would not look or sound together.

Square: The Orchestra Librarian Marks Every Bow Stroke

Harder · 201 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 10.3

1. A sheet displaying only the notes for one particular instrument.
2. A score that presents every instrument simultaneously.
3. So every player moves the bow in the same direction at the same moment.
4. The conductor and the section leaders.
5. Gathers the music, erases certain marks, and files everything.
6. A single missing page can halt a rehearsal.
7. Players might move their bows in different directions, so the section would not look or sound unified.