

Three Wise Men of Gotham

Music composed by Ellie Hallett

Three wise men of

The first system of musical notation for the song. It consists of a treble and bass clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics 'Three wise men of' are written below the treble staff.

Gotham, Went to sea in a bowl And if

The second system of musical notation. It begins with a measure rest marked with the number '4'. The melody continues with quarter notes D5, E5, and F#5. The lyrics 'Gotham, Went to sea in a bowl And if' are written below the treble staff.

that bowl had been stronger, My

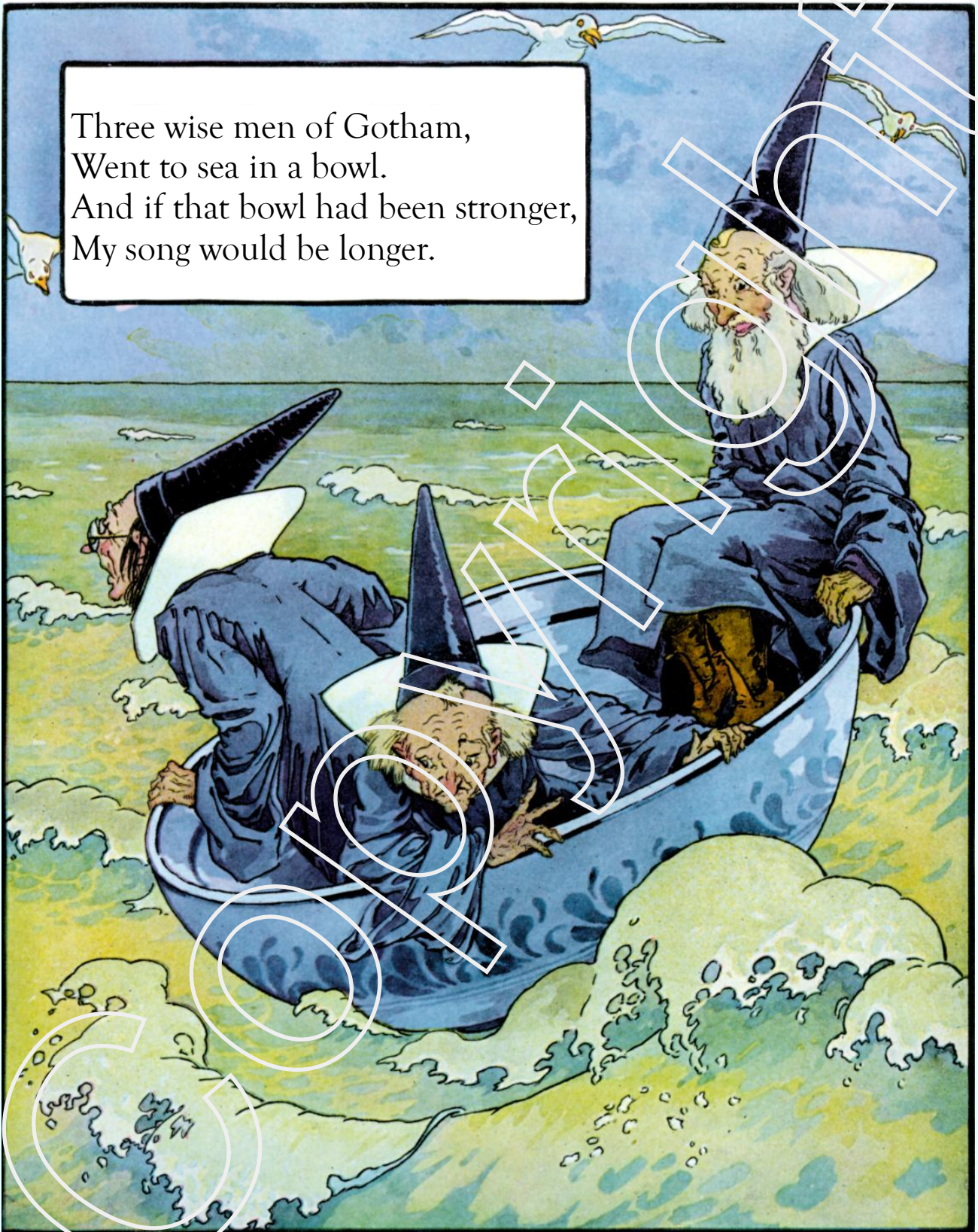
The third system of musical notation. The melody continues with quarter notes G5, F#5, and E5. The lyrics 'that bowl had been stronger, My' are written below the treble staff.

song— would be long-er.

The fourth system of musical notation. The melody concludes with quarter notes D5, C5, and B4. The lyrics 'song— would be long-er.' are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a double bar line.

Three Wise Men of Gotham

Three wise men of Gotham,
Went to sea in a bowl.
And if that bowl had been stronger,
My song would be longer.



Gotham is a town in England. Can you find it on a map? In the 13th century, King John wanted to steal some of their land to build a hunting lodge, so the townspeople pretended to be stupid to scare him away. (Notice the dunce's caps.) The trick worked!

Teaching and Learning Suggestions

Keep these discussions short and casual rather than too 'schoolish'. The magical beauty of the word pictures created by the rhymes must always come first.

Lead children to the pleasures of discovering and saying rhyming words (Horner, corner; honey, money ..). A feast awaits!

Say the words and syllables that are on the beat a little louder than the other words.

Adding lots of facial and vocal expression will enhance the listening, speaking and singing fun.

Encourage memorisation of the spoken and sung versions.

Feel how the rhythm of the words and music fit the beat.

Have a question time where children do the asking.

Look for shapes, such as circles and ovals as in Little Bo-Peep's hat; the spider web in Little Miss Muffet; the Christmas pie in Little Jack Horner; the clockface, moon and dish in Hey Diddle Diddle and the bowl in Three Men of Gotham. Can you find any more?

Observe and name the details and colours in each picture's foreground, mid-ground and background.

Talk about the facial expressions and feelings of each character.

Which rhymes have a lane?

How many rhymes have the word 'Little' in the title?

Questions are best asked so that the listener does the thinking and talking, thereby learning the skill of putting thoughts into words. EH