

Perfect Piggies

2015, dir. Sandra Boynton, USA (3'24")

Synopsis

This is a wonderful animation about a fantastic quintet of piggies singing about their wonderful selves in an a cappella swing style. Beware this will be stuck in your head for the rest of the day.

Activities

Before visiting the cinema

Show the children the trailer for the film. This can be found on Vimeo at:

<https://vimeo.com/140922448>

Questions for Discussion

- Has anyone ever heard a song sung in that style?
- Explain the meaning of a cappella eg. A song sung without backing music
- Draw the children's attention to the rhythm. Can they clap or snap their fingers in time to it?



After visiting the cinema

Discuss with the children if they liked the film and song. Take feedback and encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings about the film.

Children's Task One

The children can learn to sing the song in an a cappella style. Use the trailer to help you with the rhythm and pitch of the song. Online version of the lyrics can be found at:

<http://www.metrolyrics.com/perfect-piggies-lyrics-sandra-boynton.html>

Perfect Piggies Swing Song

The world is so confusing, so fast and full of strife, you feel that you are losing the simple joys of life. You're looking for something you haven't got, it may be illusion, but maybe not.
Just look around you, stop, and think,

It's called perfection and it comes in pink!

(bah doo bah doink, doink, snuffle dee da, bah doo bah doink, doink, piggy doo wah, bah doo bah doink, doink, snuffle dee da, bah doo bah chatanoogah piggy piggy piggely dee)

Did you ever see noses so wonderfully round? Where else could these curly little tails be found? The spring of our tail to our snuffling snout, our plumpness is pleasing, there isn't a doubt. And look at these ears so floppy and fine. You have to admit it, we're fabulous swine.

Chorus:

We are all perfect piggies and we know what we need. It's really very simple, very simple indeed. A trough full of food, a place in the sun, and a little bit of comfort when the day is done.

(Bah doo bah doink, doink, snuffle dee da, bah doo bah doink, doink, piggy doo wah,)

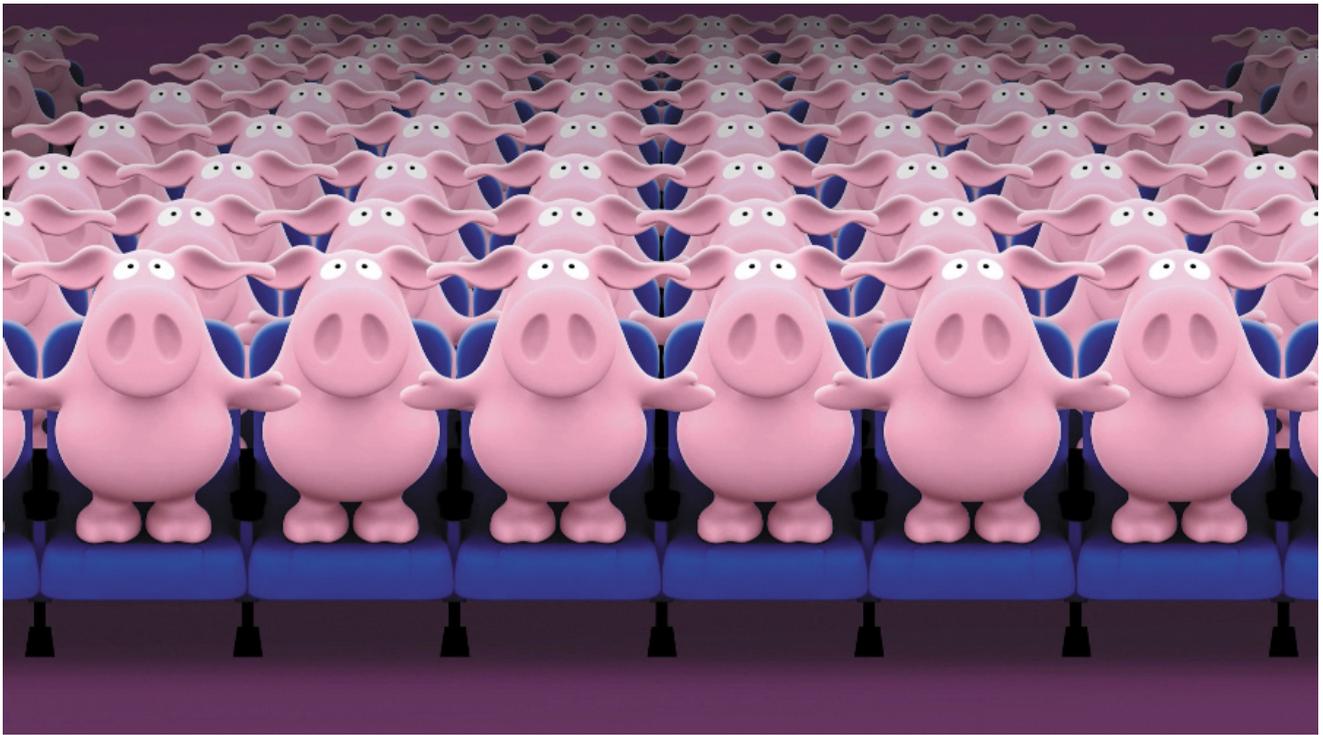
Now a piggy needs kindness, a piggy needs care, a piggy needs to frolic in the open air. A piggy needs hope, yes-a now and again, a piggy needs time in a piggy's own pen. We really don't ask to be greatly admired. We just wanna lie down when our trotters get tired.

(Chorus)

Now some have more wits, some have more style, but no one around has a lovelier smile. Some like to work, some like to think. Piggies are born to be chubby and pink.

Now a pig is a pig and that's how it should be, you have to be you, we have to be we. We go wee wee wee, all the way home, all the way home, all the way home. These little piggies go wee wee wee, all the way home, these little piggies go wee wee wee, all the way home, all the way home, all the way home. These little piggies go wee wee wee, all the way home, all the way home, all the way home.

These little piggies go piggledybop.



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I enjoy singing and playing along to music of different styles and cultures. EXA 0-16a

There are some good examples of Barbershop quartets available on YouTube. This would be another avenue to explore with the children. Many of them do more modern songs that the children may know and want to sing along to.

Children's Task Two

In co-operative learning groups set each group the task of learning the following musical terms:

- A cappella
- Quintet
- Swing
- Rhythm

Give the group the task of creating a poster for each term and coming up with a definition and way of explaining it. Using the technique of '3 stay one stray' send one of your group members to another group to teach them the term. Have the groups rotate so that everyone learns the definition of each term. At the end have each group member share the definition of a different musical term.

I can use my voice, musical instruments and music technology to discover and enjoy playing with sound, rhythm, pitch and dynamics. EXA 1-17a