

# Musical Clichés

Year 7, Summer 2

In everyday language, a cliché is a phrase which is often used - or overused some may say. Clichés are said to show a lack of imagination. In the world of music, clichés are musical phrases and techniques that are used often, especially in cartoon music.

## Examples of musical clichés

- **Glissando** – a continuous slide up or down in pitch
- **Tremolo** – a wavering sound created by a rapid change between two pitches
- Sudden **changes in dynamics**
- **Major** chords for happy scenes
- **Minor** chords for sad scenes
- **Changes in tempo** to represent movement
- **Chromatic movement** between semi-tones to show falling/creeping/



## The Task

To create musical clichés for different cartoon clips, to enhance what is happening within the story.

## Skills Developed

- Develop compositional techniques, using specific musical devices such as glissandos, chromatic movement and the elements of music.
- Combine several elements of music to create music appropriate for a specific cartoon clip.
- To be able to select appropriate instruments used for each chosen cartoon clip.
- Develop performance skills when performing to the class.
- Develop the ability to describe music using the elements of music and specific music vocabulary.

## What are musical clichés for?

- To generate dramatic effect
- To heighten the sense of excitement
- To enhance emotion
- To warn the audience that something will happen