

Teachers Resource Material  
to accompany  
**'THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE'**

for use in elementary grades  
following Rick Scott's performance

Lyrics included  
Please feel free to duplicate this material  
for use in classrooms

Also available at [www.rickscott.ca/resources](http://www.rickscott.ca/resources)  
(click Teachers)

Mail class letters to:  
58 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo, BC V9R 6R1

For further information contact [info@rickscott.ca](mailto:info@rickscott.ca)

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For distribution before the performance

**\* D E A R T E A C H E R S \***

My name is Rick Scott and I am an actor, songwriter, musician, father and grandfather. My concerts are based on my experience as all of these. Over the past 45 years my love of music has taken me into many areas of the arts, including instrument making, theatre, radio, film, television and advertising. I choose to work with children to take music out of the mysterious unreachable realm of rock concerts and YouTube to bring it home—live--to your gymnasium.

I want to play music WITH your school. I believe everyone has natural musical ability and that there's no right or wrong way to express it. Our culture tends to glorify singers and musicians when in fact we all have these talents within us. In other cultures the time when an infant begins to use language is the time when he/she is taught to sing. Each of us has our own voice and our own song and my shows allow us to explore these abilities together. I encourage participation and welcome the children's enthusiasm. There will be a question period at the end of the show.

My experience supports the “you can do it too” method of making music. With no formal training I've composed hundreds of songs and performed around in nine countries. I am self taught on a four stringed folk instrument called the Appalachian mountain dulcimer which I play upside down from the traditional technique! I'm Goodwill Ambassador for the Down Syndrome Research Foundation. My 'Angels Do' and 'Upside of Down' videos celebrate children with special needs, see them at [www.rickscott.ca/videos](http://www.rickscott.ca/videos).

I will leave your school CDs for your music teacher or library and study guides to extend my performance into the classroom. I hope they will encourage you to use music to augment your curriculum. There are a several projects I hope you will find enjoyable, including how to make and play a Whimmydiddle, an Appalachian toy which is also a percussion instrument. Please feel free to duplicate and use my music and printed materials for any school purpose.

In the digital age letter writing seems to be a vanishing art and I encourage children to mail me letters. If your class writes to me at the postal address below I will write back, but sometimes it takes a while. I welcome your comments and suggestions and would be delighted to hear from you. Thank you for the opportunity to make music with you and your students.

MAIL LETTERS TO: 58 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo, BC V9R 6R1  
EMAIL ADDRESS FOR TEACHERS: [info@rickscott.ca](mailto:info@rickscott.ca)

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Classroom activities based on  
THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE

QUESTIONS BASED ON YOU'RE HERE

1. Make a list of all the places named in this song and find them on a map: Northwest Territories, Ontario, Chilliwack
2. Find your town on the map.

QUESTIONS BASED ON THE ARTICLE SONG: ATHEANA

1. What is an ARTICLE in English grammar?  
A part of speech used before nouns
2. What are the two other meanings of the word "article"?  
An article in a newspaper or an article of clothing
3. What are the three articles? HINT: you'll find them in the title of the song.  
"A" "the" and "an"
4. What is ONOMATOPOEIA? Give some examples of onomatopoeic words?  
A word which imitates the sound it is describing: whisper, buzz, hum

QUESTIONS BASED ON WHIMMYDIDDLE

A whimmydiddle is a toy which is also a musical instrument that is simple to build.

1. This song is based on puns - what is a PUN?  
ANSWER: Using words where the original meaning is playfully confused
2. See how many examples of puns or "plays on words" you can find in this song.  
"Tried to put a cap upon my knee"; "had a lock of hair but had no key"; "grew some corn upon my toes"; "tried to eat it with a fork in the road"; "the crook in my elbow committed a crime"
3. What do you think "how many ways can you play that log" means?  
Rick's dulcimers is made out of wood - which of course originally come from a tree cut into logs. Rick is asking "how many ways can you play the Dulcimer?"
4. Name a letter in the alphabet that does not begin with its own letter. "W".

QUESTIONS BASED ON MY FRIEND HAS THE BIGGEST EARS IN THE WORLD

1. This song is a good example of HYPERBOLE. Look this word up in the dictionary to find out what it means. ANSWER: Hyperbole is exaggeration.

2. Give some examples of imaginative exaggeration from the song.

Draw a picture of one of these.

ANSWER: "Biggest ears in the world / afraid that he might blow away / wrapped them around us with room to spare/he makes them like wings and we all fly away on our own holiday".

## THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE

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### QUESTIONS BASED ON SPIKE McCOOL

This song was written in a song writing workshop at Carnarvon Elementary in Vancouver. It 's a classic tale of an outsider who finds a place in his community through an extraordinary occurrence. It's one of Rick's most requested songs.

1. Name three things about Spike McCool that make him an unusual puppy dog. He was cool, he played video games, he wore a black leather jacket and sunglasses and a rainbow mokawk hair style. Draw a picture of Spike McCool.
2. Why does Spike go ("mosey") over to the school? ANSWER: He was lonely for the kids there. What does "mosey" mean? To amble. ANSWER: To walk without hurrying, perhaps with your hands in your pockets. Mosey around your classroom.
3. When Spike gets to school, what happens? ANSWER: He wanders into the middle of a basketball game. What do the kids do when they see Spike on the court? ANSWER: They scream his name. Spike thinks they're screaming because they're happy to see him.
4. How do we know the kids are excited about the game? ANSWER: They're stamping their feet, and chewing on their pencils, on their fingernails and on each other!
5. How does Spike become a hero? Omajar Ramalama DingdongTwistoff, the 7-foot centre from the other team, trips over him and loses the ball. Spike's tail sends the ball into the hoop to score the winning basket. He becomes team mascot and leads the cheer IS THAT A COOL MUTT OR ?

### QUESTIONS BASED ON BALLAD OF THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE

A ballad is a "narrative" song: a song that tells a story.

1. What is this story about? Rick and his musical instrument called a dulcimer.
2. Where do dulcimers originate? Northeast USA, Kentucky, Tennessee, N. Carolina  
Find this area on the map.
3. What do you learn about the dulcimer from verses 2 & 3? It's made of wood, has 4 strings, is easy to play and makes a sweet sound like angels singing. Draw a picture of Rick's dulcimer.
4. What instruments do the kids in the song suggest when they try to guess the dulcimer's name? A guitar, a mandolin, and a piano. Find a picture of all three and see how they look compared to the dulcimer. Which one was a "silly" guess? A piano . Can you tell that by the way Rick says "a piano"?
5. Find the Yukon Territories on the map. It's way up in the north of Canada, where there's lots of snow. Canada has 10 provinces and 2 territories. Can you name them and find them on the map?
6. What name did a boy in the Yukon make up for the dulcimer? "THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE". A snowshoe is a flat, paddle-like shoe that lets you walk across the top of deep snow rather than sinking in. Find a picture of a snowshoe and compare it to your drawing of the dulcimer and you'll see what a wonderful and appropriate name it is. Rick liked the name so much, he wrote this song about it and named the album after it too!

THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE

7. Write your own narrative song. Change the nouns and verbs in Rick's song to create your own story, starting with: Hi, I'm BLANK and I'd like to BLANK...etc. It can be a true story or one you make up. Have fun!

#### ACTIVITY BASED ON SIMON SEZ

SIMON SAYS is a game that's popular all around the world. Take turns leading the class in playing a game of Simon Says. Follow the song's words for the actions then make up your own things Simon says to do.

#### QUESTIONS BASED ON OOHLAHEY

The title of this song comes from the expression OOH LA LA, which is a funny way to say WOW in French that is sometimes used in English as well.

1. What other French words or phrases do you hear in this song? What do they mean?  
Parlez-vous francais (do you speak French?) Venez, venez, encore une fois (Come on, one more time) chantez avec moi (sing with me). So in English it means COME ON, SING ALONG!
2. What does Rick mean when he says, "get out my snowshoe and play a little tune"?  
He means he'll get out his dulcimer and play it.
3. Rick wrote this song specially to end his school shows. What in the first verse tells you that? He says, "pretty soon the (school) bell starts ringing telling me I've got to stop singing, so that's my show, that and this goodbye."
4. This song talks about the Rick's appreciation for music. How do we know he loves music? He says, "music is the best" and that he likes to play it "with a friend"; that music can "make you happy when you have the blues" or when you're missing someone who's far away from you.
5. Write a hello song and/or a goodbye song making up new words to music from a song you like.  
EXAMPLE: (sing to ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT) Hey, hi, say hello, here I am again.

#### LYRICS FOLLOW.

All songs by Rick Scott.

## YOU'RE HERE

1. You might come from the Northwest Territories  
you might come from Ontario  
you might come from Chilliwack, Jack  
well, if you do, I think you should know  
you're here and I'm so glad you are  
you're here so let's just see how far  
oh oh oh you're here, oh oh oh you're here

2. You might have gone to school (cool)  
you could have stayed at home  
you might be in Tent #3  
but then you wouldn't get to hear my poem  
you're here and I think that's so fine  
you're here so let's just do some time  
oh oh oh you're here, oh oh oh you're here

3. You might be the Prime Minister of Canada  
you might be a snowflake  
you might be the one who invented ice cream  
well if you are, I think you should take a big bow  
applause, applause, applause  
you're here, I guess it's just because  
oh oh oh you're here, oh oh oh you're here

4. You might think the world's wonderful  
you might think the world stinks  
you might think if you so much as blink  
you'll sink into the drink and become extinct  
no, you're here and we've got a minute or two  
you're here, so let's just do the do  
oh oh oh you're here, oh oh oh you're here  
oh oh oh you're here

## SNEAKERS

1. Stronger than a rocket, faster than a rabbit  
funky as an old sardine  
when I'm on the land I move so grand  
in the water, looky, I'm a submarine

CHORUS: I've got my sneakers on my feet  
I've got my sneakers all around the world  
I've got my sneakers, they're so complete  
I've got my sneakers give them a whirl

2. I've been watching papa when he picks them up  
he's got to turn his face away  
next thing I know I'm down at the shoe store  
going to take my sneakers away

CHORUS: Oh no, I've got my sneakers...

3. Now all of you grownups living in the world  
don't you drop that bomb today  
cause if you do we're taking off our shoe  
and the smell is going to blow you away

CHORUS: I've got my sneakers...

4. You can call them high-tops  
you can call them joggers  
that's just the runaround  
'cause everywhere you go if you look down low  
you'll see everybody's on a common ground

CHORUS: We've got our sneakers...



## THE ARTICLE SONG (ATHEANA)

Good day, children. In today's English lesson we shall be learning about THE ARTICLE. Ah, the article! Those sometimes mischievous yet indispensable words that greatly assist in the creation and completion of our friend, the sentence. There are only three words in the English language which are qualified to be articles and those three words are: A...AN...THE... no more, no less.

Of course, the article of which I speak is not to be confused with an article in the newspaper, or an article of clothing such as the common sock. However, it could become an endless source of amusement to discover...

1. I'm a little article  
just a little particle  
of an ordinary kind of word  
when I go past it's so darn fast  
it's almost like I never was heard  
no doubt about it, you couldn't do without it  
when using any other kind of word  
with my A...AN...THE...AN...A

2. I'm so adorable, it really is deplorable  
that you could say a thing without me  
it really does make sense to use me in a sentence  
easy as it can be  
I'm smart at the start, I dribble in the middle  
and then I've got to onomatopoe  
and it's time to change my diaper

A-THE-AN-A (come out and play)  
A-THE-AN-A (come out and play)  
A-THE-AN-A (come out and play)  
won't you come out and play

3. What can I say, I'd love to stay  
but I really, really, really got to go  
what's that sound, I believe it's a noun  
playing on the old banjo  
it's my duty, rooty-toot-tooty  
to follow it wherever it goes  
with my A...AN...THE...AN  
A...AN...THE...AN...  
A...AN...THE...AN...  
AAH!

## WHIMMYDIDDLE

1. Tried to put a cap upon my knee  
had a lock of hair but I had no key  
let me say this clear as fog  
how many ways can you play that log?

Whimmydiddle, whimmydiddle  
hey diddle the cat's got a fiddle  
but you and I got a whimmydiddle to play

2. Grew some corn upon my toe  
tried to eat it with a fork in the road  
Q-R-S all came to tea  
how come W starts with D?

Whimmydiddle, whimmydiddle  
come on give me that crazy rhythm  
that you know only a whimmydiddle can do

3. Got a bridge across my nose  
hammer in my hand and nails on my toes  
crook in my elbow committed a crime  
stole my watch so I took my time

Whimmydiddle, whimmydiddle  
hey diddle diddle the cat's got a fiddle  
but you and I got a whimmydiddle to play

## HALLOWEEN HOODOO

1. Did you ever think you'd see a ninja  
crawlin' across the floor  
did you know that little Pierot  
is going to turn around the world once more?

CHORUS: Keep your eyes wide open, your back to the wall  
watch out for little things that start to crawl  
or you might see such a beautiful sight  
it just makes you want to sing all night  
Hidee hidee hi, ho do ho de oh de oh de  
ooh wah ooh, it's a Halloween Hoodoo

2. Who's that coming? Why it's Charlie Chaplin  
out on the town with some clowns  
and isn't that funky? They brought along a monkey  
to turn it all upside down

CHORUS: Keep your eyes wide open...

3. I just saw a spaceman dancin' with a bumblebee  
a strange old man came right up to them  
and said how come you won't dance with me?

CHORUS: Keep your eyes wide open...

4. You might think my song is over  
I'm here to tell you it's not  
there's a princess who has got a dragon  
and when he breathes it gets real hot

so if you want to come you better bring some  
cause everybody's got their own  
but if you're scared or you think it's too weird  
maybe you should stay at home

Hidee hidee hi, ho dee ho dee oh dee oh dee  
ooh wah ooh, it's a Halloween Hoodoo  
it's a Halloween Hoodoo

MY FRIEND HAS THE BIGGEST EARS IN THE WORLD  
by Rick and Jorg Scott

CHORUS: My friend, my friend  
has the biggest ears in the world  
'til north is south and east is west  
my friend and his ears are the best

1. They are so huge  
well one day we were playing  
we got hit by a terrible storm  
he wrapped his ears around us  
with room to spare  
we were laughing, we were dry  
and we were warm

Repeat CHORUS

2. They are so awesome  
that they flap in the wind  
and we're scared that he might blow away  
but he makes them like wings  
and we all climb on board  
fly away on our own holiday

Repeat CHORUS

Cause he's my friend, he's my best buddy  
and he has the biggest ears in the world  
'til north is south and east is west  
my friend and his ears are the best

## SPIKE McCOOL

1. Spike McCool didn't go to school  
cause he was too young and he was too cool  
he spent all day in the video arcade  
in his black leather jacket and his pitch black shades  
is that a cool mutt, or what? (3 times) ...BUT...

2. Spike McCool is his own master  
with his rainbow mohawk and his ghetto blaster  
he'll save any kid from any big jerk  
who tries to make him do his homework  
is that a cool mutt or what? (3 times) ...BUT...

But Spike got lonely when school was in  
and there was no one to notice him  
staying cool gets kind of hard  
when all the kids are playing in the schoolyard

3. So Spike moseyed over to the old brick school  
a little bit nervous but still acting cool  
when suddenly everyone was shouting his name  
cause he was in the middle of a basketball game

Only 3 seconds left and the score was tied. The opponents had the ball.  
Kids were chewing on their fingernails, kids were chewing on their pencils,  
kids were chewing on other kids! They were screaming and stomping their feet  
and hollering and Spike thought, "Hey, I guess they're happy to see me!"  
So he just stood there, looking cool, with his mohawk and his leather jacket  
and pitch black shades, when suddenly, Omajar Ramalamadingdong Twistoff,  
the 7 foot centre from the opposing team, came thundering down the court  
with fire in his eyes and steam streaming out of his sneakers,  
when he tripped over Spike and lost the ball...

That ball bounced off Spike McCool's tail  
which was wagging so hard the ball began to sail  
up and over through the hometown hoop  
the crowd went wild and started to whoop  
as the buzzer rang and the game was won...  
Spike McCool was the favourite son!

4. Now Spike's a hero on the kids' sport scene  
'cause now he's the mascot of the basketball team  
and he's leading the school in a brand new cheer  
and at every game here's what you'll hear  
is that a cool mutt or what? (6 times)      SAY WHAT? SAY WOOF!

## THE BALLAD OF THE ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE

1. Hi, this is Rick and I want to say  
a few words about the instrument I play  
it's a strange looking thing and that's for sure  
and what it's called is a dulcimer

2. Now hundred of years before you or me  
from the hills of Kentucky and Tennessee  
from the southeast part of the U.S.A.  
the folks down there needed something to play  
like a bagpipe... like a guitar... had to be real easy

3. So they tried to find a thing that they had that was good  
what they had was trees, what they had was wood  
so they carved it down and put on four strings  
yes my friends, it was a beautiful thing  
looked like a leaf... sounded like angels singing  
made people dance... I had to have one

4. So me and my dulcimer went Canada way  
and naturally we just started to play  
and we made that sound that a dulcimer does  
but folks weren't sure just what it was  
I tried to tell 'em... it's a music machine  
they thought it was something else

5. Then one day up in the Yukon  
the dulcimer and I were putting a show on  
I asked the kids if they knew its name  
and all the answers were all the same  
a mandolin?... Nope. A guitar? Nope.  
a piano?... What?!?

6. Then a kid in the back raised up his hand  
he stood right up and made a stand  
and he yelled out something too good to be true  
"I know what it is! IT'S AN ELECTRIC SNOWSHOE!"  
Sure!... why not?... I guess that's what it is!

7. So that's the story of the electric snowshoe  
and maybe you've learned a thing or two  
so next time the story I'll be tellin'  
is about my intergalactic watermelon  
just kidding... I have to go now... y'all take care!

## SIMON SEZ

1. Simon says to look up  
Simon says to look down  
Simon says put the best smile on  
that you got in town  
Simon says to look out  
Simon says never give up  
Simon says keep a good thing  
'til you've had enough  
that's what Simon told me  
and now I'm telling you

2. Simon says snap your fingers  
Simon says clap your hand  
Simon says that's the best beat  
you can be in my band  
Simon says to say YEAH, oh say it again...  
oh, I believe that someone said YEAH  
and old Simon didn't tell you to

3. But Simon says point your finger,  
Simon says scratch your head  
Simon says now ain't you glad  
that you did what Simon said  
that's what Simon told me  
and now I'm telling you  
Simon says close your eyes,  
now open them up  
ah you see you're looking at me  
and you shouldn't be cause  
Simon didn't say so, see? (ha hah)

4. Simon says touch your ear,  
Simon says touch your nose  
Simon says touch your funny bone  
everywhere it goes  
Simon says to look out  
Simon says never give up  
Simon says keep a good thing  
'til you've had enough  
that's what Simon told me  
and now I'm telling you  
that's what Simon told me to do

## OOHLAHEY

1. Pretty soon the bell starts ringing  
telling me I've got to stop singing  
so that's my show... that and this goodbye  
music is the best, say it again  
especially when it's with a friend  
and if you don't mind that's what you are to me.

So let's just have one more song  
it doesn't matter what planet you're on  
come on, come on, sing it one time with me

CHORUS: Ooh la la la ooh la la hey-eh, hey-eh  
Ooh la la la ooh la la hey-eh, hey-eh

2. So try some music if you've got the blues  
or happy, with nothing to do  
or thinking 'bout someone who's so far away  
it will keep you warm when you're feeling cold  
fix a heart or mend a soul  
and if you cut your finger you can sing real loud

Oh what a deal, the sale is on  
and it doesn't matter what planet you're from  
come on, come on, let's sing it one time for free

CHORUS: Ooh la la la ooh la la hey-ay, hey-ay

3. Well, you know, I never had a chance to go to France  
but when I do I know it's going to be a radical thing  
they will say, parlez-vous francais?  
I'll get out my snowshoe and I'll play  
a little tune everybody can sing

So let's just try one more song  
sing about the love the of the planet we're on  
venez, venez, encore une fois chantez avec moi

CHORUS: Ooh la la la ooh la la hey-ay, hey-ay