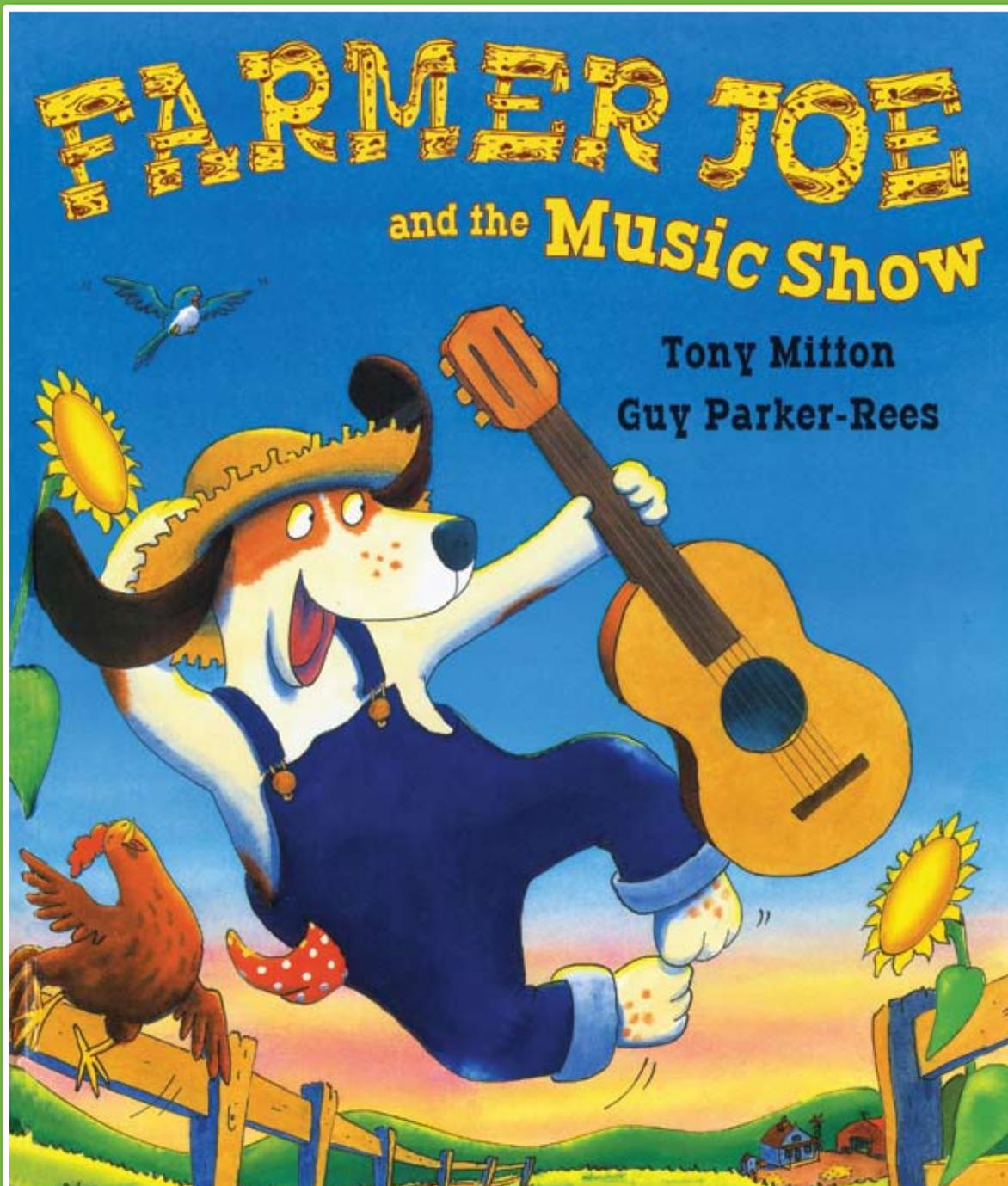


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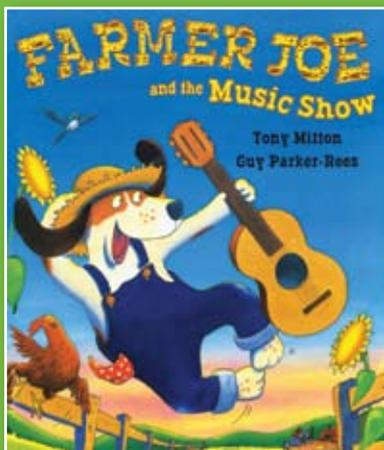
AGES 2+



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Getting children reading. Giving books to schools.



AGES 2+

<b>Author</b>	Tony Mitton
<b>Illustrator</b>	Guy Parker-Rees
<b>Publisher</b>	Orchard Books

## Using this book in your classroom

### Themes

This story is about **music** and the amazing things it can do; there is also a strong theme of **friendship**.

### Summary

Poor old Farmer Joe has a problem. Things are looking bad on his farm – the animals are all refusing to feed, and even the crops aren't growing. What can he do?

Suddenly, he has a brilliant idea! He picks up his old guitar and starts to pick out a tune. One by one, his friends join him – the fox on the fiddle, the rabbit on a concertina, and even the bear on the double bass! Before they know it, the hens have started laying, the pigs have started feeding and the crops are all stretching up to the sky...

The amazing power of music means that Farmer Joe will never need to worry about hard times on the farm again!

### Did you know?

- Tony Mitton used to be a primary school teacher, but now he is a full-time children's poet and storywriter. He also spends a lot of time giving performances at primary schools, libraries and festivals.
- Guy Parker-Rees has illustrated over forty picture books. He has collaborated with Tony Mitton on several books, including the multi-award-winning *Spookyrumпус*.



## The Story Session

### 1. Introducing the book

If possible, start by playing the children some lively instrumental music – bluegrass or country music, or fiddle-based folk music, would be perfect.

Say: “How do you feel when you listen to music like this? Do you think music can be good at cheering us up?” Show the front cover to the children, and read the title. Ask: “What kind of music do you think Farmer Joe can play? Do you think he likes music?”

### 2. Reading the story

Read the whole story to the children, as rhythmically as you can. You could do actions for the different musical instruments – encourage the children to join in too. Pause after Farmer Joe first picks up his guitar and starts to play. Ask: “Do you think it’s a good idea to play some music? What might happen next?” Read on to see if the children were right!

### 3. Follow-up

- Say: “How do you think Farmer Joe and the animals felt at the end of the story? Do you think the band will come and play at the farm again?”

- Give the children some percussion instruments such as bells, triangles etc. Reread the story, and ask them to try to keep the beat with their instruments – or just let them jingle and jangle their instruments at the end of each page!

- Encourage the children to draw a picture in response to the story – you could ask each child to draw a picture of a different animal playing, dancing or enjoying the music, to make a class display.



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