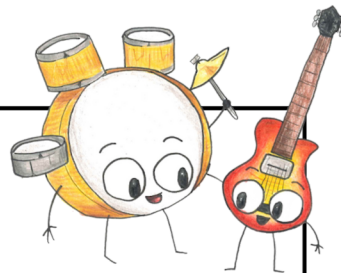


# Mikey's Place Teaching Materials



## Definitions

Vox - another way that musicians say vocals, which could include singing, rapping, or any vocalization.

Root Note - the note at the bottom of the chord that gives the letter name of the chord. Bass plays the root notes, so for example if Guitar and Keyboard are playing a G major chord (made up of 3 notes), Bass only plays a G note.

Feedback - the sound that happens when two microphones are too close together or when microphones are too close to the speaker. It can be a screeching sound or a low hum. Generally it is undesirable, but in some genres it is used as musical material.

Backgrounds - are the parts that keyboards often play that fade into the background but provide particular nuance to the sound. These are also called "pads."

Leads - these are the parts that keyboards play that stick out into the front. Think "Jump," by Van Halen.

Mic - pronounced "mike" is a short form of the word "microphone."

Harmonies - a harmony is when 2 or more notes are played at the same time. Harmonies are typically perceived as pleasing sounds, but some harmonies can have a rather harsh sound.

## Social Emotional Connections

Social emotional learning (SEL) help students to focus on the skills essential for working with others, building resiliency, and achieving goals. Mikey's Place has connections to SEL that could help your learners build these skills.

## The Five Competencies

- Self-Management - deals with the managing of one's emotions to achieve one's goals.
- Social Awareness - deals with showing empathy and understanding toward others.
- Self-Awareness - deals with the ability to recognize one's emotions as well as strengths and challenges.
- Responsible Decision-Making - deals with making ethical and constructive choices about behaviour.
- Relationship Skills - deals with the concept of forming positive relationships, working together, and working through conflict.

## Connections to Mikey's Place

Self-Awareness - Mikey knew that he was sad and was able to figure out why, recognizing that he loved to sing, but couldn't figure out where he fit in. Once he found his place in the world, he knew that he felt

nervous, but gave it a try anyway. This is one of the overall themes in the book.

Relationship Skills - Mikey tries to find where his “people” are and in the process makes new friends along the way. The friends all work together at the end to form their band.

Social Awareness - Mikey realizes that he doesn’t belong in some places and that there might be a better place for him to shine.

## Main Theme

The main theme in *Mikey’s Place* is that everyone has a purpose and everyone has a place. It’s about finding out what you’re good at and pursuing it. Everyone is good at something, but not everyone is good at everything.

## Questions

Below are some questions that learners could engage in to help themselves be more self aware and be able to recognize their strengths and challenges and be able to come up with solutions to problems they may face.

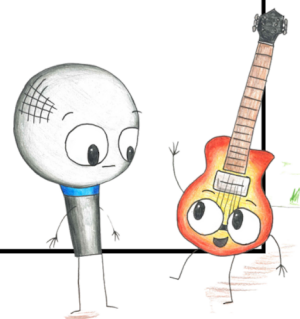
- What is something you are good at? Do you enjoy doing it?
- What is something that you are not very good at but would like to be better at?
- Is there something that you love to do even though you might not be very good at it?
- What are some ways you might improve on that skill?
- Is there something that you have never tried but would love to? If so, what is it?
- What is a goal (not in sports!)? Do you have any future goals? What are they?
- Have you ever felt like you didn’t belong? How did you resolve the situation?
- Where is your favourite place to be? What place makes you the most happy?
- Have you ever been nervous to do something? If so, what was it? Did you end up doing it? Was it as scary as you thought it was?
- Did you ever meet a new friend that helped you feel better? Can you explain?

## Lesson Ideas

The following are ideas that can generate a lesson with many cross-curricular connections.

Have learners...

- Figure out how many strings Guitar and Bass have, and see if they can find another musical instrument with more than 6 strings or less than 4.
- Invent and design a new musical instrument friend to join their band.
- Research flowers or plants with musical names.
- Find something they’re good at and create a project around that (project-based learning).
- Find more onomatopoeia words aside from the CRASH, BANG, and BOOM in the book. They can design their own lettering to make it stand out.
- Create a tour schedule for Mikey and his friends and learn about the cities and places they visit.



- Create their own band, name it, and create a new song (even if it's just lyrics).
- Create a back story to one of the characters.
- Create a sequel to Mikey's Place.
- If you have access to a keyboard (use [Shared Piano](#) on [Chrome Music Lab](#)), have learners find the F major chord on page 19 and try to play it. See if they can play any other chords.
- Compose a melody or chord progression using the chords in the book.
- Play the chords on page 17.
- Create their own short AAB CCB rhyme story or follow another rhyme scheme.
- Draw the characters from the book and create an instruction manual on how to draw them.
- Become the characters in the book and put on a play.
- Pretend they are in Guitar's recording studio and make a podcast about their favourite subject using [BandLab for Education](#).
- Research one of the instruments in the rock band and make a presentation on it.
- Imagine what Mikey's first song with the band could have been and see if they can perform it.
- Find patterns among the pages in the book.

## Noticings

- Did you notice the flowers during Mikey's stroll? Can you name them? What are those funny-looking trees? (Answer: Bell Flowers, Angel's Trumpet [Brugmansia], Fiddleheads, Musical Notes Plant. Those trees are a musical instrument called a bell tree.)
- Where do you think the fox came from and why won't he sing?
- What books did you notice on Mikey's bookshelf? (Answer: "The Mic Thief," "The Feedback," "Lord of the Mic," "To Kill a Mikingbird," "Feedback Games," "The Mic in Our Store.")
- Can you name any of the instruments in the audience at Mikey's concert? (Answer: tambourine, bodhran, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, acoustic guitar, cymbal, tom drums, snare drum, two more microphones).
- What chord is shown being played on page 19? (Answer: F major)
- Full size piano keyboards have eighty-eight keys. How many keys does Keyboard have? (Hint: It's NOT eighty-eight, and it's slightly different in each picture)
- What is the answer to the math problem on the dry-erase board on the first page? (Answer: 15)
- What is Keyboard getting from the shed on page 11? Perhaps she is putting something back? What do you think it was?

