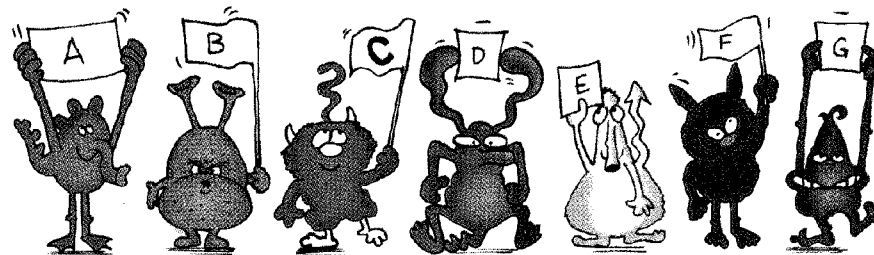


# JOHN THOMPSON'S EASIEST PIANO COURSE

## Part One



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# Teachers and Parents

## PURPOSE

This course is designed to present the easiest possible approach to piano playing. Part One is devoted to developing fluency in **reading by note**, solving a problem that still seems to rate as 'musical enemy, number one' with most young students. The Work Sheets together with the Reading Aloud Exercises, appearing frequently, afford plenty of drill for all students.

## SCOPE

The range covered in Part One is purposely limited. Only five notes up and five notes down from middle C are presented and time values do not go beyond crotchets. This makes it possible to include many examples in the form of review work and obviates the necessity of using supplementary material. In short, each book of the course is complete in itself and contains its own Writing Exercises, Sight Reading Drills, Review Work and (in later books) Technical Studies.

## ACCOMPANIMENTS

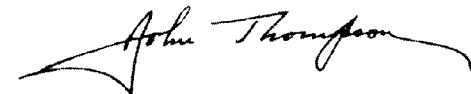
Accompaniments for teacher or parent are supplied with most of the examples. They have been carefully composed to make the little pieces sound as much as possible like fragments from larger compositions. Valuable in several ways, they not only make it possible to play in various keys, avoiding the deadly monotony of C major, but their use imposes strict time and sharp rhythm, especially when they are played with somewhat vigorous accents, thus helping the pupil to 'feel' the rhythm from the very beginning.

## GRADING

The books in this course do not represent any certain grade. They simply follow in proper sequence as Part One, Part Two, Part Three, etc. Nor are the lessons measured page by page. Some pupils will master several pages per lesson others only one. The course progresses 'Point by Point' rather than 'Lesson by Lesson,' and it is left to the teacher, (who, after all, is the only one qualified), to decide how much or how little each pupil can absorb in one lesson.

## PART TWO

Part Two proceeds from the exact point reached at the end of Part One. New notes, time-values and rudiments are presented. Technique also begins in Part Two – first in the form of simple finger drills and later, more extended technical figures. Part Two remains in what is generally classified as Preparatory Grade. The prime objective of the entire course is to show how early, thoroughly, entertainingly and musically – rather than how fast – each pupil can progress.



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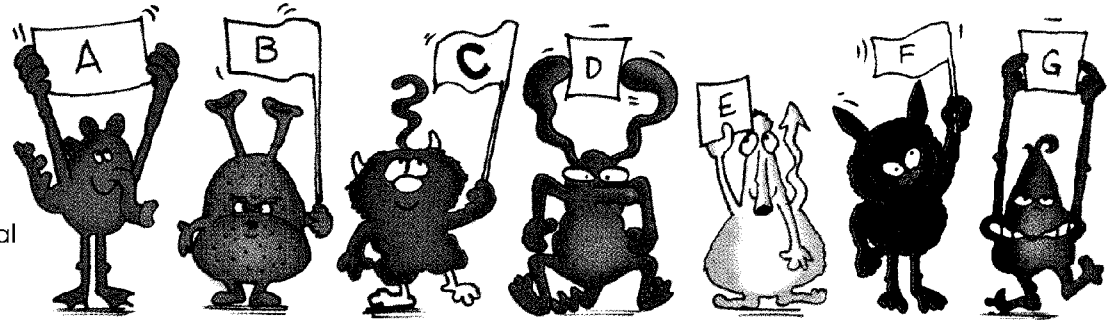
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# The Piano Keyboard

There are WHITE KEYS and BLACK KEYS on the Piano Keyboard.

The WHITE KEYS are named

Recite the letters of the Musical Alphabet several times.



The BLACK KEYS are grouped in TWOS and THREES.

Touch all the groups of TWO BLACK KEYS on your Piano.

**C** is found to the **left** of the TWO BLACK KEYS.

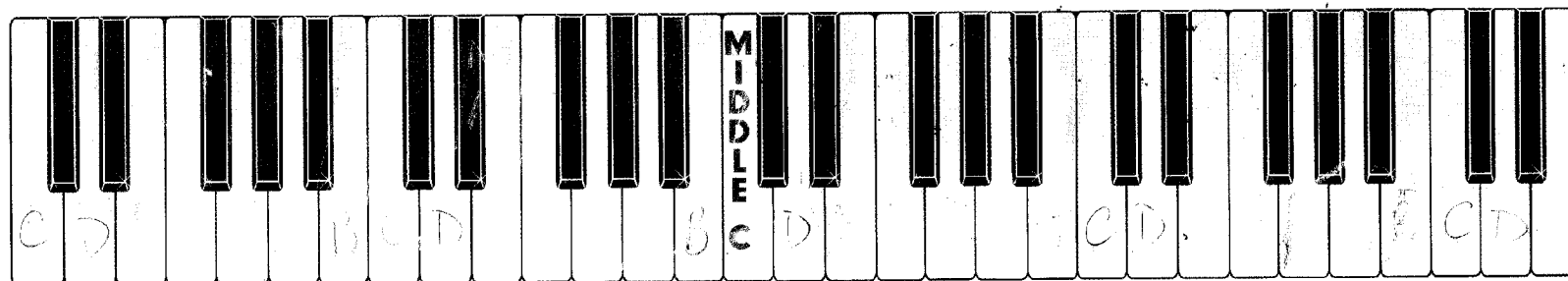
Letter all the C's you can find on the Keyboard Chart, next page.

Now, on your piano, PLAY all the C's you can find – using the thumb.

This is how to find  
**C** on your Piano.



# Keyboard Chart



**This is a picture of your keyboard**  
– as you learn the name of each new key,  
turn back to this page and mark **ALL** the  
keys having the same name.

# Middle C on the Music

Music is written on the LINES and SPACES of the STAVE.

The Stave

The NOTES on the music tell us which KEYS to play.



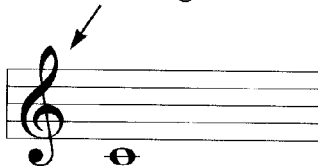
There are different kinds of notes, but first we shall learn the SEMIBREVE.

A SEMIBREVE looks like this, 

It is held for FOUR COUNTS.

## Clef Signs

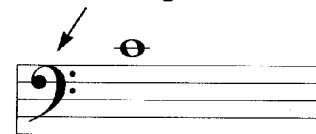
Treble Clef sign



This is how MIDDLE C looks in the Treble.  
It is written as a SEMIBREVE, and gets FOUR counts.  
It is played by the RIGHT HAND thumb.  
Play it and count FOUR.

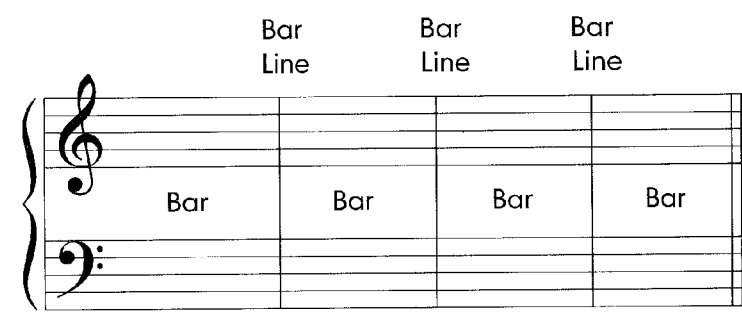


Bass Clef sign



This is how MIDDLE C looks in the Bass.  
Written as a semibreve, it gets FOUR counts.  
It is played by the LEFT HAND thumb.  
Play it and count FOUR.

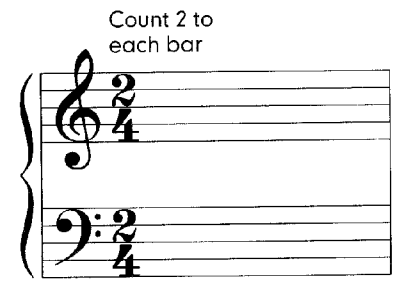
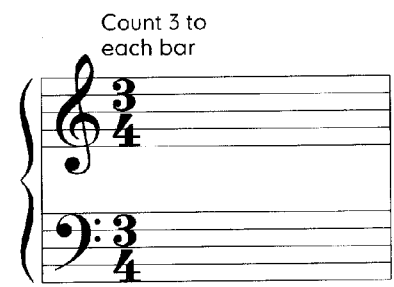
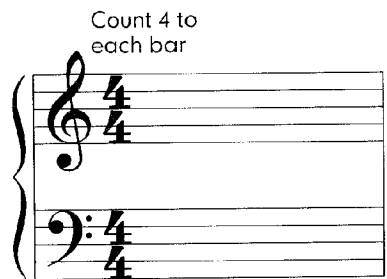
Music is divided  
by bar lines  
into bars.



The numbers after the Clef Signs tell us how to count.

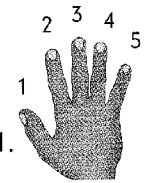
In this book we need only read the TOP number.

It shows how many counts to each bar.



Each finger has a number.

Left Hand



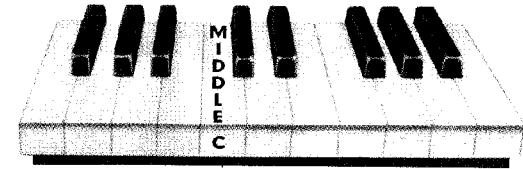
The thumbs are both numbered 1.

Right Hand

# Middle C as a Semibreve

In the Treble

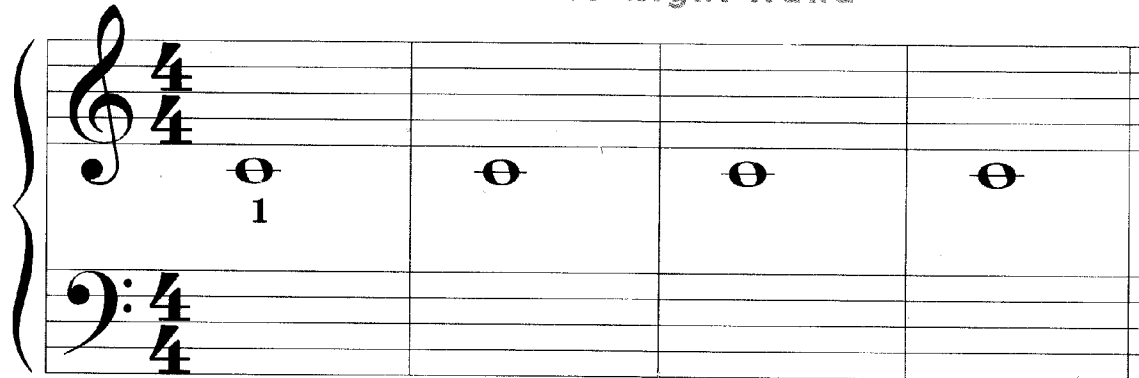
Accompaniment



Play with right hand thumb  
and count four to each note.



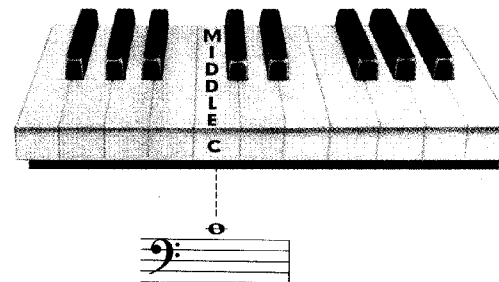
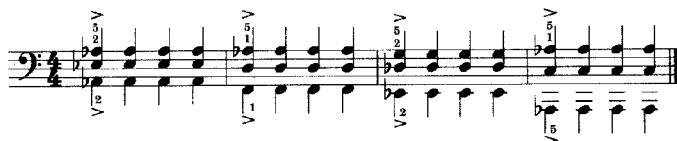
Let's Play  
With the Right Hand



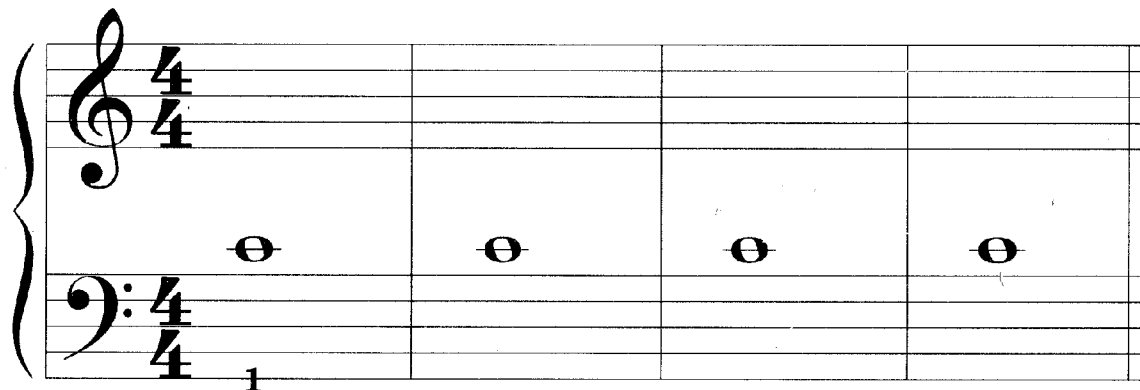
# Middle C as a Semibreve

In the Bass

Accompaniment





Let's Play  
With the Left Hand



Play with left hand thumb  
count four to each note.

# Middle C in Minims

When a note has an open head and a stem, like this, (  or  ) it is called a MINIM and gets TWO COUNTS.

Play the following, counting TWO to each note –

'ONE, TWO' to the first note and 'THREE, FOUR' to the second note of each bar.

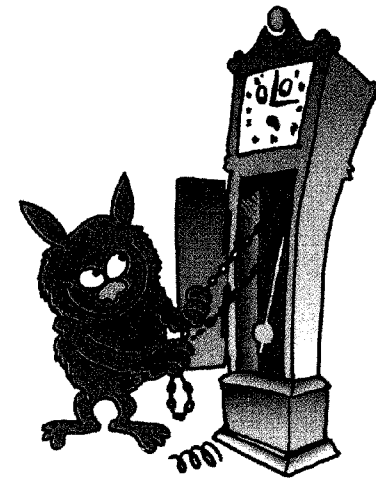
Count four to each bar.



## Grandfather's Clock

Count: one-two three-four



## Accompaniment



# Middle C in Crotchets

Four counts to each bar.



A CROTCHET looks like this (  or  ) and gets one count.

## Moccasin Dance

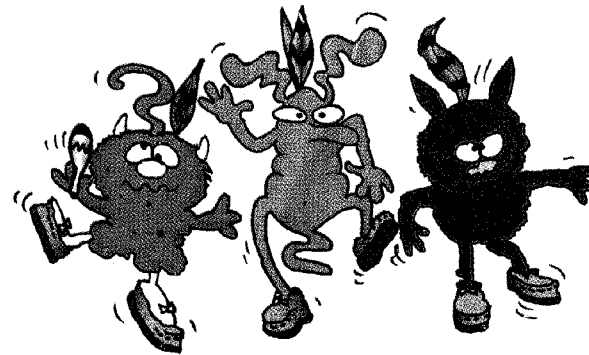
Musical notation for the 'Moccasin Dance' section. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time. The first bar has a treble clef with four crotchets (middle C) and a bass clef with four crotchets (middle C). A '1' is written below the first note in both staves. Below the first bar, the text 'Count: One Two Three Four' is written. The second bar has four crotchets in the treble clef and four crotchets in the bass clef. The third and fourth bars each have four crotchets in the treble clef and four crotchets in the bass clef.



Continuation of the musical notation for the 'Moccasin Dance' section. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time. The first bar has four crotchets in the treble clef and four crotchets in the bass clef. The second bar has four crotchets in the treble clef and four crotchets in the bass clef. The third and fourth bars each have four crotchets in the treble clef and four crotchets in the bass clef.

## Accompaniment

Musical notation for the 'Accompaniment' section. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time. The first staff has a bass clef and the second staff has a treble clef. Both staves contain a series of chords and notes, primarily in the lower register, providing a rhythmic accompaniment.



# Work Sheet



Mark the Time Values of the following notes, using 1 for Crotchets, 2 for Minims and 4 for Semibreves.

1

Make Minims of the following by adding stems.  
Stems Up

2

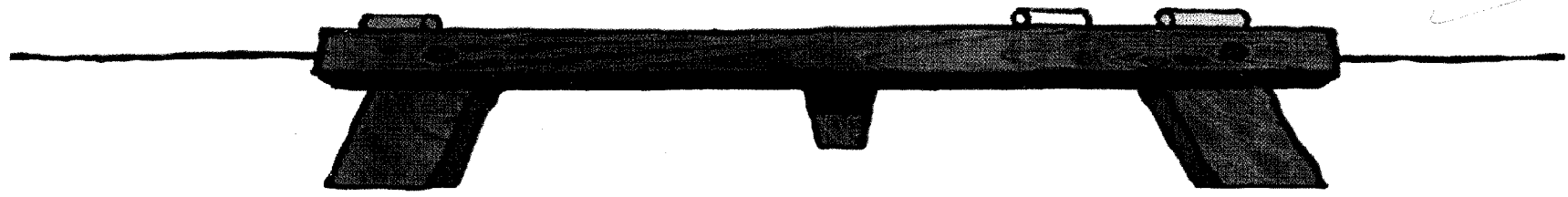
Stems Down

Change the following into Crotchets by filling in the heads and adding stems when necessary.

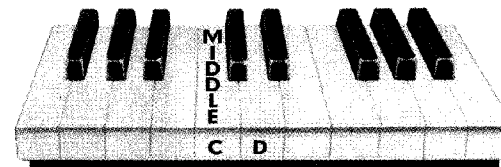
3

Write Middle C in each Clef.

	Semibreve	Two Minims	Four Crotchets	Two Minims	Four Crotchets	Semibreve
4						

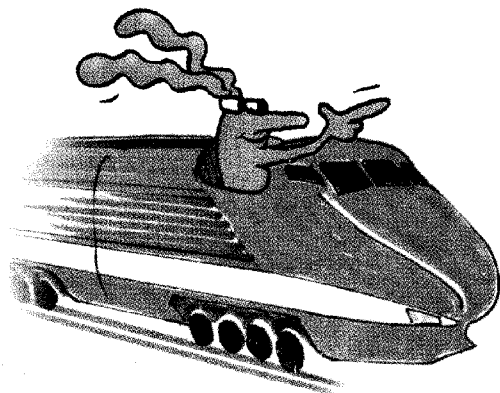


### Accompaniment



Right Hand

New Note



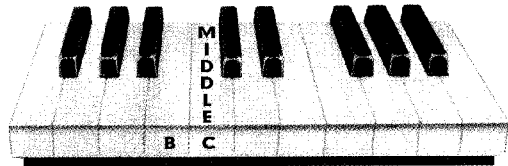
### The Train



Turn to the work sheet on page 15  
and do exercises 1 and 2.

#### Note to teacher

From this point on, be sure to stress  
the importance of accenting the  
first count of each bar.



New Note  
Left Hand <sup>2</sup>

A musical notation snippet showing a single note on a bass clef staff. The note is on the second line, and a '2' is written below it, indicating a second finger.

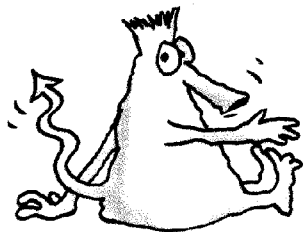
### Accompaniment

Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The top staff is marked 'mp' and contains a sequence of eighth notes. The bottom staff contains a sequence of eighth notes, likely providing a harmonic accompaniment.

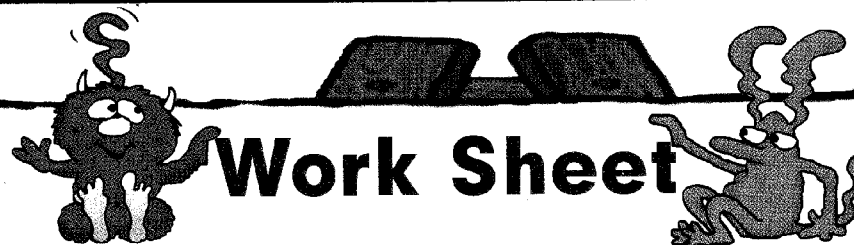
### The Seabées

A musical score for 'The Seabées' in 4/4 time. The top staff is a treble clef and the bottom is a bass clef. The melody consists of a series of quarter notes. A cartoon monster holding a flag is illustrated above the second measure. Fingerings '1' and '2' are indicated below the first two notes in the bass staff.

A blank musical score in 4/4 time, consisting of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, intended for writing exercises.



Do writing exercises  
3, 4 and 5 on page 15.



Write letter names under the notes.

1   
 c

Write the new note **D** as indicated.

2   
 Semibreve Two Minims Four Crotchets

Write letter names under the notes.

3   
 c

Write the new note **B** as indicated.

4   
 Semibreve Two Minims Four Crotchets

In the following exercise, first draw the Bar Lines where they belong. (Note Time Signature).

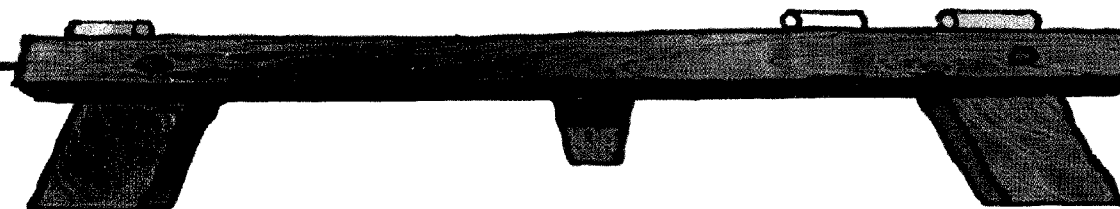
Next write the letter names of the notes.

Finally, mark the Time Values – using 1 for a Crotchet, 2 for a Minim and 4 for a Semibreve.

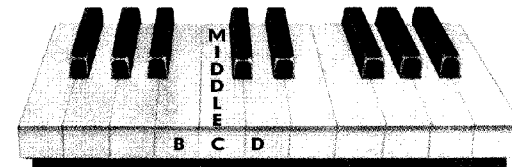
5

Letter Names **C**

Time Values **2**



# Two-Four



Count two to each bar.



## March of the Gnomes

Right Hand   
Left Hand

## Accompaniment

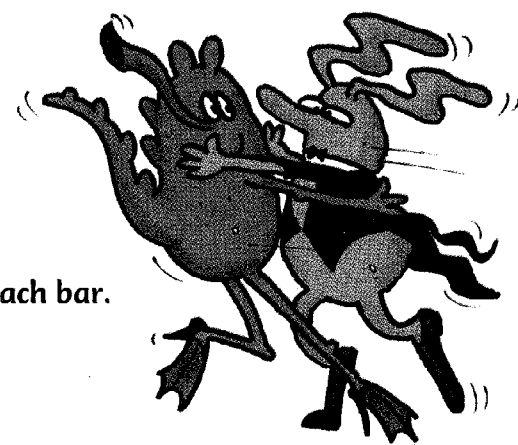


# Three-Four and The Dotted Minim

The dotted minim looks like this (  or  ) and is held for 3 counts.



Count 3 to each bar.



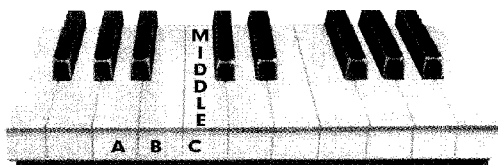
## Dance of the Gnomes

## Accompaniment



Dotted minim, hold for 3 counts.

Do you see the importance of correct counting? These are the same notes you played in 'March of the Gnomes' but they make a new piece when you count 3 to each bar.



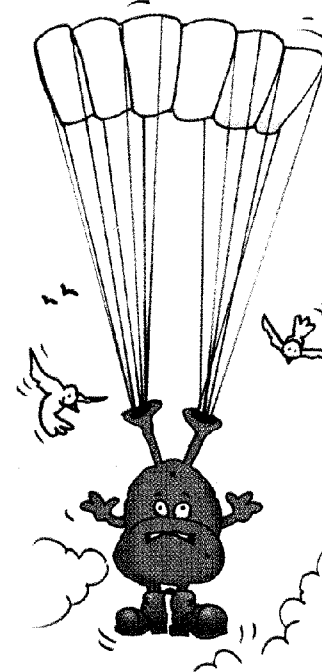
New Note



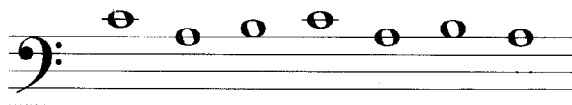
### The Paratrooper



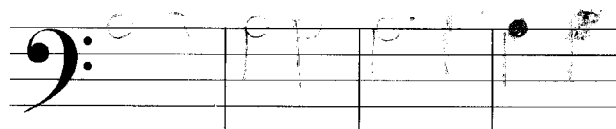
### Accompaniment



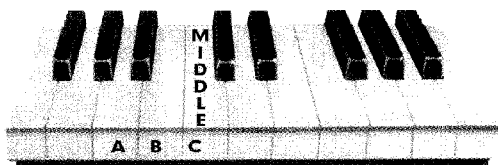
### Read Aloud



Write the new note **A** below. COPY ALL NOTES.



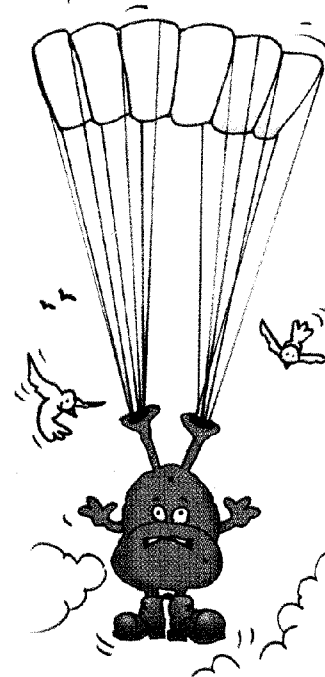
Semibreve    Minim    Dotted Minim    Crotchet



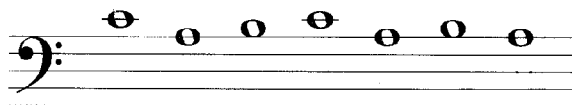
New Note



### The Paratrooper



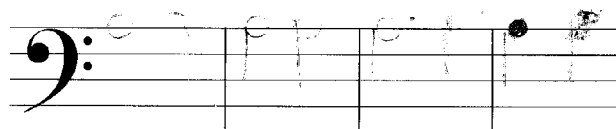
### Read Aloud



### Accompaniment



Write the new note **A** below. COPY ALL NOTES.



Semibreve    Minim    Dotted Minim    Crotchet

