

Saryana and the Wonderful Djembe Drum



Discussion Questions & Activities

1. What are some of the values and qualities that Saryana demonstrates throughout the story?

Here are some hints:

- Perseverance
- Resilience
- Patience
- Cooperation
- Communication
- Kindness
- Hard work
- Respect
- Generosity

- a) How does Saryana demonstrate these values and qualities?
 - b) Can you think of times you've used them in your own life?
2. Why do you think the three birds come to help Saryana?
 3. Why is it important for Saryana to understand why she wants a djembe drum?
 4. How do Grandpa and the birds help Saryana become kinder and more patient?
 5. Think of a time when you wanted something that your parents didn't want to get for you. Why didn't they want to get it for you? Why is it sometimes important to wait for something until you are ready for it?

Learn More

I. The Djembe Drum

Did you know?

A traditional West African instrument, the djembe drum has brought people together for generations with its vibrant sound and spiritual connections. In the 20th century, African drummers spread the djembe drum around the world, inspiring people with its heartfelt message of unity and appreciation.

While learning to play the djembe drum well is a process that requires hard work, practice, and the guidance of a master musician, with a bit of practice anyone can learn to play its basic beats.

Research project – Learn about the djembe drum

1. Where does the name “djembe” come from and what does it mean?
2. How is the djembe drum traditionally used in West Africa?
3. Why has the djembe drum become so popular in the West?

Useful Resources to Reference:

[African Instruments Guide: What Is a Djembe Drum? \(teropotila.com\)](http://teropotila.com)

[The Djembe Drum: Rhythmic Heartbeat of West Africa - Authentic Drums](#)

[History of The Djembe - DrumConnection World Djembe & Drum Shop](#)

Activity – Learn to play the djembe drum

Take a look at these videos below and take your first steps in learning to play the djembe drum.

[What Is the Djembe? | African Drums \(youtube.com\)](#)

[How to Prepare to Play the Djembe | African Drums \(youtube.com\)](#)

[How to Play Basic Sounds on Djembe | African Drums \(youtube.com\)](#)

[History Of Djembe African Drumming Babatunde Olatunji \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Telling a story with the voices of the drums African Drumming Babatunde Olatunji \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Do You Speak Djembe? | Doug Manuel | TEDxHollywood - YouTube](#)

II. Birds as Messengers

Did you know?

Since ancient times, people across the world have regarded birds as messengers between the human and the spiritual worlds. With their ability to travel between heaven and earth, their sense of freedom and independence, and their majestic plumage, birds inspire us to open our hearts and listen to the call of the greater spiritual forces that lie within and beyond us.

Research project – Learn about Birds as Messengers

1. Why have people across nations believed that birds are messengers between the earthly and spiritual realms?
2. Different species of birds have different significance. In “Saryana and the Wonderful Djembe Drum,” we meet a blue bird, a yellow bird and a red bird. What is the symbolism of each type of bird?
3. Name other types of birds and their symbolism, i.e. falcon, owl, hummingbird, etc.

Useful Resources to Reference:

[The Symbolism Of Birds: Messengers, Freedom, Wisdom, Peace, And More | Feathered Realm](#)

[The Significance of Birds in African Paintings - Tinga Tinga African Art \(tingatingaart.com\)](#)

[Bird Symbolism and Their Meaning \(Popular Birds with Images\) \(birdsphere.com\)](#)

[Yellow Bird Symbolism And Meaning: The Ultimate Guide | Learn Bird Watching](#)