



Dance of the Violin  
By Kathy Stinson

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Extension Activities:

1. Joshua made music with all kinds of improvised instruments. Try making your own at home musical instruments! An empty tissue box and rubber bands can be a guitar. A toilet paper tube can be a trumpet. A pot and a spoon can be a drum set. Be creative! You can find additional ideas online by searching for "homemade instruments."
2. Joshua imagined stories in the music he heard and played, and the illustrations in the book show some of this. Find some music to listen to and draw a picture inspired by what you hear.
3. Joshua Bell is the real violinist this book is based on. You can listen to him play portions of the song featured in the story, Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole*, here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_ETYbsq16g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_ETYbsq16g). You can listen to him talk about the song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZfilv348gk>
4. Play a game with the musical tempo words Joshua used. Prestissimo--fast & Adagio--slow. Have one person call out Prestissimo or Adagio, and have the rest of the game players either use a stick to beat out a rhythm that matches, or move their bodies at a speed that matches. Drum or dance quickly or slowly in response to the tempo word prompt from the caller.
5. Discuss--Is there something you love doing as much as Joshua loved playing violin? What have you had to do to get better at doing that thing? When you make mistakes, how do you respond? Do you give up? Try again? Work harder? Can you tell a story about a time you made a mistake and what happened?