

# Fry Bread

a language arts and music lesson  
by Jennifer Purdy



Using figurative language and elements of music, write a description of how you would express each picture through music in the left columns. How would that scene “sound”?

Then watch and listen to the video “Fry Bread” by Connor Chee.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ftjTPtPEk>

In the right columns write a description of how he interpreted each scene through his piano composition. What do you hear?

## Elements of Music

*Musicians use these elements of music to convey a feeling, image, or purpose.*

### Tempo:

fast (*allegro*)  
medium (*andante or moderato*)  
slow (*adagio*)  
gradually getting faster (*accelerando*)  
gradually getting slower (*ritardando*)

### Articulation:

connected and smooth  
sustained  
detached  
short and staccato  
accented

### Dynamics:

loud (*forte*)  
medium (*mezzo forte*)  
quiet (*piano*)  
gradually getting louder (*crescendo*)  
gradually getting quieter (*decrescendo*)

### Melody:

high  
medium  
low  
going from low to high  
going from high to low  
skipping  
circular

### Duration:

Simple rhythm  
Syncopated or complicated rhythm  
Steady, even meter  
Lilting or swaying meter  
Odd meter

### Texture:

thick density of sound  
thin density of sound

1.



*staples – flour, baking powder, salt, water*

<p>Use interesting adjectives or figurative language to describe these four staple ingredients. How do they look? How would they feel in your hands?</p> <p>How would you describe this through music?</p> <p><i>Describe tempo (fast or slow), dynamics (loud, quiet, getting louder or quieter), articulation (smoothly connected or short and detached), melody (high, low, getting higher, getting lower, skipping, circular), and texture (heavy chords or lighter accompaniment).</i></p>	<p>How did the composer interpret this scene through his music?</p> <p><i>Describe tempo, dynamics, articulation, melody, and texture. You may also use adjectives and figurative language.</i></p>

2.



*mixing dry ingredients*

<p>Use interesting adjectives or figurative language to describe mixing the dry ingredients. What kind of motions are used? How would this feel? How does this sound?</p> <p>How would you describe this through music?</p> <p><i>Describe tempo (fast or slow), dynamics (loud, quiet, getting louder or quieter), articulation (smoothly connected or short and detached), melody (high, low, getting higher, getting lower, skipping, circular), and texture (heavy chords or lighter accompaniment).</i></p>	<p>How did the composer interpret this scene through his music?</p> <p>Describe tempo, dynamics, articulation, melody, and texture. You may also use adjectives and figurative language.</p>

3.



*turning and mixing wet dough by hand*

Use interesting adjectives or figurative language to describe mixing the wet dough by hand. What kind of motions are used? How would this feel? How does this sound?

How would you describe this through music?

*Describe tempo (fast or slow), dynamics (loud, quiet, getting louder or quieter), articulation (smoothly connected or short and detached), melody (high, low, getting higher, getting lower, skipping, circular), and texture (heavy chords or lighter accompaniment).*

How did the composer interpret this scene through his music?

Describe tempo, dynamics, articulation, melody, and texture. You may also use adjectives and figurative language.

4.



*lighting the cooking flame*

<p>Use interesting adjectives or figurative language to describe the dough getting lighter, lighting the cooking flame, and preparing the oil/shortening. What does this look like? How does this sound or smell?</p> <p>How would you describe this through music?</p> <p><i>Describe tempo (fast or slow), dynamics (loud, quiet, getting louder or quieter), articulation (smoothly connected or short and detached), melody (high, low, getting higher, getting lower, skipping, circular), and texture (heavy chords or lighter accompaniment).</i></p>	<p>How did the composer interpret this scene through his music?</p> <p>Describe tempo, dynamics, articulation, melody, and texture. You may also use adjectives and figurative language.</p>

5.



*patting and forming the bread*

<p>Use interesting adjectives or figurative language to describe patting and forming the dough. What does this look like? What kind of motions are used?</p> <p>How would you describe this through music?</p> <p><i>Describe tempo (fast or slow), dynamics (loud, quiet, getting louder or quieter), articulation (smoothly connected or short and detached), melody (high, low, getting higher, getting lower, skipping, circular), and texture (heavy chords or lighter accompaniment).</i></p>	<p>How did the composer interpret this scene through his music?</p> <p>Describe tempo, dynamics, articulation, melody, and texture. You may also use adjectives and figurative language.</p>

6.



*laying the dough in the pan, frying the dough in bubbling hot oil*

<p>Use interesting adjectives or figurative language to describe laying the dough in the pan and the dough frying in bubbling hot oil. What kind of motions are used? Describe how it looks, sounds, and smells.</p> <p>How would you describe this through music?</p>	<p>How did the composer interpret this scene through his music? Describe tempo, dynamics, articulation, melody, and texture. You may also use adjectives and figurative language.</p>