

What's that Lurking in the Cave?

This duet is designed to encourage your pupil to explore the whole keyboard, improvise and listen carefully to the sounds made. Your pupil also needs to listen carefully to your part, keep a steady pulse at the start and respond to changes in tempo. Discovering what's in the cave will be a collaborative effort!

There are 5 different elements for your pupil, interspersed with a "what's that lurking in the cave" motif and linking sections. If you are using two pianos your pupil can choose which register to use - they have the whole keyboard to explore! If playing as a duet, the score includes instructions on how to move, swapping places with your pupil and adding to the fun!

Improvisation

Almost the whole piece can be improvised, but it is good to do some preparation and let your pupil explore the different types of sounds they can make. Encourage your pupil to think about the dynamics and how that can help tell the story as well as describe the creatures. The duet is underpinned by a footstep ostinato which holds everything together, allowing your pupil to improvise for as long as they like.

There are suggestions on the pupil's sheet for the different sounds, but these are ideas only. Encourage your pupil to be as creative as they like. It is important to remind them that there are no wrong notes or ideas. Just have fun and bounce ideas around!

Turning the duet into a solo composition

Once you have a complete piece that can be confidently played you can use this as the basis for a solo composition. Your pupil will now have experience in creating different sounds within a structured piece that has a steady pulse. Composing means taking decisions and thinking carefully about your intentions. This can be difficult for pupils to do, but by improvising first they have started on that process and will have plenty of ideas to choose from.

Your pupil could use the same theme or adapt it. They could create their own melody for the words "what's that lurking in the cave", adding their sounds in-between by using the same format as the duet. They may like to decide what it is they have found in the cave and add some extra melody or sounds!

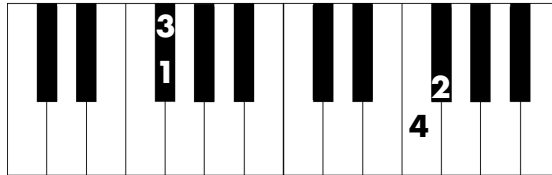
Ideally your pupil should then create a type of score, or instruction sheet similar to the duet so they can keep a record of their composition.

What's that Lurking in the Cave?

You and your teacher are going to explore a cave! You can choose whether to use low, middle or high sounds but make sure you listen to your teachers part and keep a steady pulse when you play the footsteps at the start. Apart from the footsteps, the ideas below are suggestions only. Use your imagination and explore as much as you like!

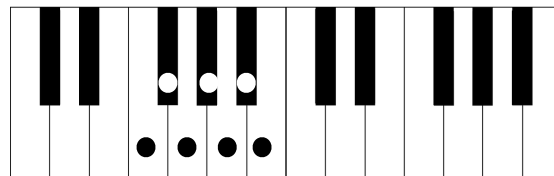
1. You are walking slowly and carefully into a large, dark cave. All you can hear are your **footsteps** echoing....

The numbers are the order you play the notes in, **not** the fingering!
Use 3rd fingers on the black keys.



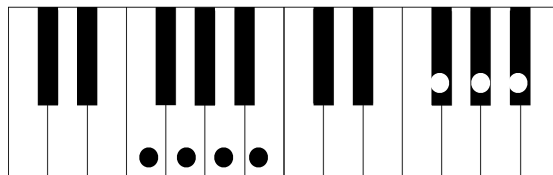
2. Suddenly you hear something **slithering** and **sliding**....

RH for black keys, LH for white. Try playing together!



3. Then you hear something **flittering** and **fluttering**....

Try using keys far apart and alternating quickly between the two.



4. A large creature is **stomping** and **stamping** its feet angrily....

Is the stamping noise far away or close by?

5. Finally there is a huge **ROAR!**

Try a double glissando using black and white keys together at the same time.
For an echo put on the sustain pedal.
Use a roll of sellotape to push across the keys to make it easier on your fingers!

What's that Lurking in the Cave?

If you have an acoustic piano silently place a heavy object on as many of the lowest black keys as possible to create the echoes of the cave.

Alison Mathews

At a good speed for exploring cautiously!

Student

Teacher

5

9

Move up to the other end of the piano!

Move down to the other end of the piano!

pp

11

Something is slithering and sliding!

Repeat these bars as necessary

Something is flittering and skittering!

16

Move down to the other end of the piano!

accel.

p *cresc.* *f*

19

Faster Tempo

8va

f

Something is stomping and stamping angrily.

Repeat these bars as necessary.

ff

A long, ferocious roar.
Listen to it fade....

Did you find what was
lurking in the cave?

pp

Tempo Primo

Ped.

* Tip! A double glissando on white and black keys, from lowest to highest, played at the same time works well. To save your fingers, hold the top of a roll of sellotape in each hand and push quickly across the keys.