How did he DO that?

Edvard Grieg knew how to tell a story through music. Think about how he wrote his music. Close your eyes and listen to “In the Hall of the Mountain King.” How did he make it sound as if the trolls were chasing Peer? What did he do to the speed of the music? Think about the instruments he chose to create his scene. What were they? If you were the composer, would you do this differently?

You Choose

Pretend you are Edvard Grieg and want to tell a story with music. What instrument would you match with the characters below? You can use an instrument from this list or think of one of your own.

Triangle     Flute     Violin     Glockenspiel     Cymbals     Trumpet     Viola
Bass Drum   Tuba     Piano     Trombone     Chimes     Clarinet     Oboe
“In the Hall of the Mountain King” appears at the point in the story where Peer Gynt has insulted the trolls and their king (maybe he said their feet smelled funny). Follow along as Peer tries to sneak away from the king and his trolls.

Peer begins to sneak away from the Mountain King

You can hear Peer’s soft footsteps played by the bassoon.

The trolls begin to follow softly. You can hear different instruments join into the slow chase.

The chase gets faster and louder. More trolls join in.

The trolls are now chasing Peer out of their castle! Some are carrying huge rocks to block his way back in! The music gets louder and faster!

Peer runs into the Mountain King! He is very angry. Peer sees two doors and tries to open them - LOCKED! He runs around to find two more doors - LOCKED!

The King grabs Peer by the back of his shirt, slams open the last door, and throws Peer out of his castle.

Why not create your own original piece of art while listening to “In the Hall of the Mountain King.”

Draw a picture, or write your own story, if you wish, on blank 8 1/2” x 11” paper. Send us your art and we may post it on our Classics for Kids website for you to share with others.

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