

Listen to track one "Let the Monster In"

1. Why does Rick (the person speaking at the beginning) have to sound the alarm?

Because the Monster is coming

2. What instrument is the Monster? Why do you think so?

tenor saxophone- *discuss how the monster sounds like his character (playing squeaks, high screaming notes, growling effects)*

3. Describe the overall mood of this song. Does it sound happy, sad, angry, frantic, fast, slow, etc.?

Talk about how emotions can be depicted through music as exemplified by the dynamic contrasts, fast tempos, and intense improvisations in "Let the Monster In".

4. Describe the form of this song. Are there sections (melodies) within the music that repeat themselves? Are there sections that are different? Please explain your answer.

There are four different sections: intro, melody, breakdown, solo section.

The melody section repeats once before the breakdown. The melody and concluding breakdown also come back after the solo section to end the song.

All sections are different because each has contrasting material. The intro consists of the alarm by the alto sax and the underlying rhythm hits of the rhythm section and tenor sax. The melody comes in with the tenor saxophone, playing long and low notes. Notice the alto alarm continues through the first time of the melody. This is where the contrast of the intro and the melody can be heard, when both are being played. The breakdown is very different from the melody because it just consists of short notes played by the two saxophones. The solo section is also very important because both saxophones are improvising (creating their own melodies).

5. What does improvisation mean? Do you think there are any examples of improvisation used in this song?

Improvisation means to create on the spot, or to make something up.

The solo section features both saxophones improvising their own melodies.

Discuss the interaction between the improvising saxophones. Improvisation is a key element not only found in jazz music, but many other forms of music as well.

Listen to track four "The Bully"

1. What instrument is playing the role of Billy? What instrument is playing the role of the Bully? Compare your answers with what you actually see during the live Quartet of Happiness performance.

Billy plays the alto saxophone. The bully plays the tenor saxophone.

2. What special talent does Billy possess that might help him confront the Bully? Who helps Billy recognize this special talent?

Billy sings in the glee club. The glee club teacher encourages Billy to try playing the saxophone since he enjoys singing. Billy possesses the gift of music.

3. What does Billy give the Bully at the end of the song? Why?

Billy gives the Bully a tenor saxophone. Billy thinks that the Bully should use his bullying power on music by expressing his anger through art (or by "beating up the air" as the Bully says on the CD)

Listen to track three "143 Hillside Fire Suite"

1. What is the mood during the beginning of this piece? How does the mood change as the song progresses?

The mood is peaceful as Rick drifts off to a peaceful sleep. The mood quickly changes to frantic when the fire alarm sounds and Rick discovers that his house is on fire.

2. Does the fire chief let Rick return to his apartment after the fire breaks out?

Yes, the fire chief assesses the damage and determines that the house is safe enough for one night's rest.

3. What happens at the end of the song?

Rick's house catches fire AGAIN! The Fire Department didn't put all of the flames out.

Listen to track two "The Radio" before question one is answered, listen to "The Radio: again, and have them ready to count how many stations there are.

1. How many different stations do you hear in "The Radio?"

13 channel switches listening front to back, but with two of the stations being repeated (the classical station, the reggae-tone station), there are only 11 different stations in all.

2. What makes the stations different from one another?

The different styles or genres of music and/or talk topics determine what type of station it will be.

3. What does genre in music mean?

The style of music defines the genre that it is in. Jazz music is from the genre of jazz.

Discuss why genre determines the content of each radio station.