

By Carol Montgomery

Readability = grade 2.8

# The Bremen Town Detective Band–Part 1

<b>For 5 readers</b>	Reader 1 = Narrators 1 & 2, Rooster	Reader 2 = Robber 1
	Reader 3 = Dog, Robber 3	Reader 4 = Donkey
	Reader 5 = Robber 2, Cat	
<b>For 6 readers</b>	Reader 1 = Narrators 1 & 2	Reader 2 = Robber 1
	Reader 3 = Dog, Robber 3	Reader 4 = Donkey
	Reader 5 = Robber 2, Cat	Reader 6 = Rooster
<b>For 7 readers</b>	Reader 1 = Narrators 1 & 2	Reader 2 = Robber 2
	Reader 3 = Donkey	Reader 4 = Dog
	Reader 5 = Cat	Reader 6 = Rooster, Robber 3
	Reader 7 = Robber 1	
<b>For 8 readers</b>	Reader 1 = Narrators 1 & 2	Reader 2 = Robber 2
	Reader 3 = Donkey	Reader 4 = Dog
	Reader 5 = Cat	Reader 6 = Rooster
	Reader 7 = Robber 1	Reader 8 = Robber 3
<b>For 9 readers - as written</b>		



**Vocabulary:**

retire

decided

hound

panting

traveled

instruments

guitarist

foursome

dismal

forlorn

feline

keyboard

piano

specialty

famished

ravenous

fabulous

fantastic

ruckus



## The Bremen Town Detective Band—Part 1

Based on the Brothers Grimm Fairy Tale “The Bremen Town Musicians”

By Carol Montgomery

**Narrator 1:** The Bremen Town Detective Band.

**Narrator 2:** Based on the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, “The Bremen Town Musicians.”

**Narrator 1:** There once was a donkey who worked hard on a farm for many years. The farmer told him he should retire and see the world. So the donkey decided to go to Bremen Town and start a band.

**Narrator 2:** As the donkey traveled he saw an old hound dog panting by the side of the road.

**Donkey:** Hey there, hairy hound! Why the frown?

**Dog:** Whoa! I’m so tired. I just barely escaped from a terrible owner.

**Donkey:** That’s awful. But, you can come with me. I’m on my way to Bremen Town to start a band. Do you play any instruments?

**Dog:** Funny you should ask. I love music! In fact, I play guitar.

**Donkey:** You’re kidding! I play drums. Why don’t you come along to Bremen Town?

**Dog:** You got your dog here—and your guitarist.

**Donkey:** All right! Let’s go!

**Narrator 1:** As the two of them walked it wasn’t long before they came to a cat sitting on a log by the road. But, the cat looked as dismal as three wet days.

**Donkey:** Hey there, forlorn feline! What's wrong?

**Cat:** Oh, my owner says I'm too old and good for nothing. I'm just sad and confused. What should I do with the rest of my life?

**Donkey:** Come with us. We're on our way to Bremen Town to start a band. Do you play any instruments?

**Cat:** (*smiles*) I do. I happen to play keys.

**Dog:** Do you mean house keys or car keys? I never heard of that.

**Cat:** No. Keys like on a keyboard or piano.

**Donkey:** Perfect. I play drums and this hairy hound plays guitar. We want to start a band.

**Cat:** Count me in. I love music!

**Narrator 2:** So, the three animals strolled along talking and getting to know each other. In a few minutes they came upon a rooster pecking for food.

**Donkey:** Hey, there! Aren't you far away from home, Mr. Rooster?

**Rooster:** Call me Rocky. I left home because I heard the farmer talking about how old I'm getting. The wife said its time for rooster burritos!

**Dog:** Whoa! Bad news. At least I wasn't going to be a hot dog—if you know what I mean.

**Cat:** Right. And I wasn't going to be cat chow. Chow. Chow. Chow.

**Donkey:** Ah, let's change the subject. Why don't you come with us, Rocky? We're going to Bremen Town to start a band. Do you play any instruments?

**Rooster:** Nope. But, I can sing. Vocals are my specialty. Rock-a-roodle-roo-roo-roo!

**Donkey:** Impressive! Why don't you join us?

**Rooster:** I think I will. But, who are you?

**Donkey:** I'm Dawsum the donkey.

**Dog:** I'm Diggety Dog

**Cat:** And, I'm Catywhompus.

**Rooster:** I'm pleased to meet you, Dawsum, Diggety, and Catywhompus! So, what's the band called?

**Narrator 1:** The rooster asked a question that no one could answer. But, it didn't bother the new friends. They knew they'd figure out something. Soon, it was getting dark and they were getting quite hungry.

**Dog:** My stomach is growling.

**Donkey:** Me, too. I'm famished!

**Rooster:** I'm ravenous.

**Cat:** I see some lights in the woods there. Maybe they'll have some food and a place to spend the night.

**Narrator 2:** When the foursome arrived at the house it was dark outside; but Dawsum the donkey could see in the window. Diggety Dog asked...

**Dog:** (*whispers loudly*) What do you see?

**Donkey:** Mama Mia! I see a table spread with fabulous food and... robbers looking through their loot in the corner.

**Rooster:** Shall we join them?

**Cat:** We really need to get the robbers out if we want to eat!

**Dog:** I'm used to being a guard dog. I can sound scary. How about the rest of you?

**Donkey:** I can lower my voice-like this. Haw, hee-haw, haw! Get out now!

**Cat:** How about if Diggety Dog stands on Dawsum Donkey. Then I get on Diggety Dog. Rocky Rooster can perch on that branch in front of the window. We'll look big and scary. I'll even fluff out my fantastic feline fur!

**Dog:** And, we'll all sound as big and scary as we can!

**Rooster:** Hey, this is the perfect time to practice my alarm imitation.

**Donkey:** I love it all. Let's do it! Diggety Dog, get up on my back! Then, Catywhompus Cat and Rocky Rooster take your places. When we're all ready we'll count one, two, three, before sounding off.

**Dog, Cat, Rocky:** Right. Gotcha.

**Narrator 1:** So, the animals got into position with the donkey's head peering in the window and the dog and cat on top. Rocky Rooster on the branch made another head.

**Donkey:** Okay, one, two, three!

**All 4 animals together:**

**Donkey:** Haw! Hee-haw! Haw! Get out now!

**Dog:** *(mean bark)*

**Cat:** Meow, meow, mew, who are you?

**Rooster:** *(alarm/siren sound)*

**Narrator 2:** When the robbers heard the ruckus they were startled. They looked toward the window. Seeing eight eyes reflecting and hearing the noise alarmed the robbers.

**Robber 1:** Oh, no! It's a Snuffle-buffle-box!

**Robber 2:** No! It's a vicious Roostasaurus!

**Robber 3:** I don't know what that eight-eyed, frizzy-faced, terrible-toothed thing is, but I'm out of here!

**Robber 1:** Run! Before it eats us!

**Robber 2:** I told you we shouldn't have stolen the loot.

**Robber 3:** What if it follows us?

**Narrator 1:** The animals made another loud noise.

**Animals:** *(loud noises)*

**Narrator 2:** And the robbers fled back to town saying...

**Robber 1:** We should be safe in jail!

**Robber 2:** Yes, let's turn ourselves in.

**Robber 3:** We'll tell them about the eight-eyed, frizzy face, terribly-toothed Snuffle-buffle-box Roostasaurus.

**Narrator 1:** Meanwhile, the animals celebrated.

**Rooster:** Let's eat!

**Cat:** Is it safe to eat with a Roostasaurus?

**Dog:** Only if you're a Snuffle-buffle-box!



**Donkey:** Or, the Bremen Town Detective Band!

**Narrators:** The End... of Part One.

(optional creative commercial break between part 1 and part 2)



## Curriculum Links (Valid in June 2017):

<http://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/bremen/story.htm>

DLTK's printable page on their version of the Bremen Town Musicians story. You could easily adapt this to another different version of a Readers Theater script that would be much shorter, but have less dialogue. Perhaps YOUR students would like to take some of the narration here and change it to dialogue. Maybe they'd even like to change the ending? This version would work well with all ages. Even adult English Language Learners would enjoy the opportunity to practice their conversation skills by adding their own dialogue to the story in parts.

<http://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/bremen/index.htm>

The DLTK's page on "The Bremen Town Musicians" includes animal craft ideas, crossword puzzles, and more printables with cute pictures.

[https://esvcs.scholastic.com/images/products/collateral\\_resources/pdf/89/0545174589\\_e004.pdf](https://esvcs.scholastic.com/images/products/collateral_resources/pdf/89/0545174589_e004.pdf)

Scholastic's 6-page play and lesson plan PDF on "The Bremen Town Musicians" includes song lyrics to a song that matches the tune of "Old MacDonald's Farm." The lesson plan includes a few questions for before and after reading, plus an extension activity that doesn't impress me. (It seems more like a discussion.) The last page is a rubric to assess oral fluency.

<http://ljskool.com/bremen-town-musicians/>

A homeschool mom brought her ADHD student home and this site documents some of what they did for school. This is her page on "The Bremen Town Musicians" lesson plan that includes ideas, links to printables (e.g., for stick puppets), questions, and a bunch of embedded videos that I didn't review. The last video is related to geography of the city of Bremen, Germany.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Town\\_Musicians\\_of\\_Bremen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Town_Musicians_of_Bremen)

Wiki article on the "Town Musicians of Bremen" with photograph of a bronze statue of the animals in Bremen, Germany.

<http://www.bremementownmusicians.com/flash/story>

Interactive flash version of "The Bremen Town Musicians." Children may read it silently, aloud, or follow along with the audio. It's interesting that most of the story is told from the point of the narrator. The only dialogue is when one of the robbers cries, "Ghosts!" Yes, this story mentions ghosts. Includes an interactive memory game of the sounds of the four animals, adding a sound each turn. I went to 10 trying to hear all the sounds, but gave up and clicked the silent rooster!

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm027.html>

"The Bremen Town Musicians" by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. This is the original version of the Grimm's fairy tale (in English).

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<https://www.pinterest.com/sonyat890/bremen-town-musicians/>

Pinterest board with several pins on “The Bremen Town Musicians”—including cause and effect.

### **Bremen Town Musicians on You Tube:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzoiEECoPGI>

Cardboard Theater Company presents “Musicians of Bremen,” a simplified version of the story. 3:17

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IR-y9rtqvEc&feature=related>

“Bremen Town Musicians--Donkey” from Mrs. Sander’s second grade class play (Hunter McGuire School). This excerpt has a song included for a full program idea. 1:42

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5LYcJUuDWE>

“Bremen Town Musicians--Dog” from Mrs. Sander’s second grade class play (Hunter McGuire School). This excerpt has a song included for a full program idea. 1:07

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROctKa8-NiA>

“Bremen Town Musicians--Cat” from Mrs. Sander’s second grade class play (Hunter McGuire School). This excerpt has a song included for a full program idea. 2:16

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FErTFIjXtj0&feature=related>

“Bremen Town Musicians--Chicken” from Mrs. Sander’s second grade class play (Hunter McGuire School). This excerpt with the rooster had a song included for a full program idea. 1:05

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGo-rbKrV64>

“Bremen Town musicians” video based on a picture storybook. The words are in small print at the bottom of the video in small print which may help adult ELL students. The robbers think that the animals are ghosts. 5:18

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Psik76mU2AA>

“The Musicians of Bremen” video from a shadow-puppetry workshop for children. I didn’t watch the whole thing, but I’m including it because the idea of shadow puppets may appeal to you and your students.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmRM20R\\_2rE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmRM20R_2rE)

“The Muppet Musicians of Bremen” Since it is so long I didn’t watch this. The clarity of the video is not the best, but it seems popular. 50:23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5gr-A03RfM> “Bremen Town Musicians Kids Story...” animated video from Fairy Tales and Stories for Kids. The adult readers have

## The Bremen Town Detective Band–Part 1

slight accents (European?). The animation is slightly stilted and jerky. But, it seems popular. 9:03

### **NOTE:**

After doing parts I and II of this script you could consider having the students write Part III about what happens next. This creative writing project may be done in small groups for different versions.

