



ENGLISH TOURING OPERA

Under the Little Red Moon

written by **Tim Yealland**, composed by **Russell Hepplewhite**
and animated by **Babis Alexiadis**

Under the Little Red Moon tells the story of the moon as it changes colour from red to blue to white, creating different light for the living creatures below. This fun, engaging, fantasy animation with its beautiful, music soundtrack has been created by English Touring Opera to introduce babies and young children to the musical joy of opera through music, movement, exploration and creativity.

These activities have been designed for you to do with your child whilst watching the opera and are aimed at babies and children who are 4 years old and under. You may wish to get some of the things you will need ready in advance. You might want to pause the opera as you go along.

Suggested items: A soft ball, an empty bottle with a lid, rice, a wooden spoon, a pot, paper and colours, some towels, a bowl of water, a mirror, shiny objects such as a spoon and tin foil.

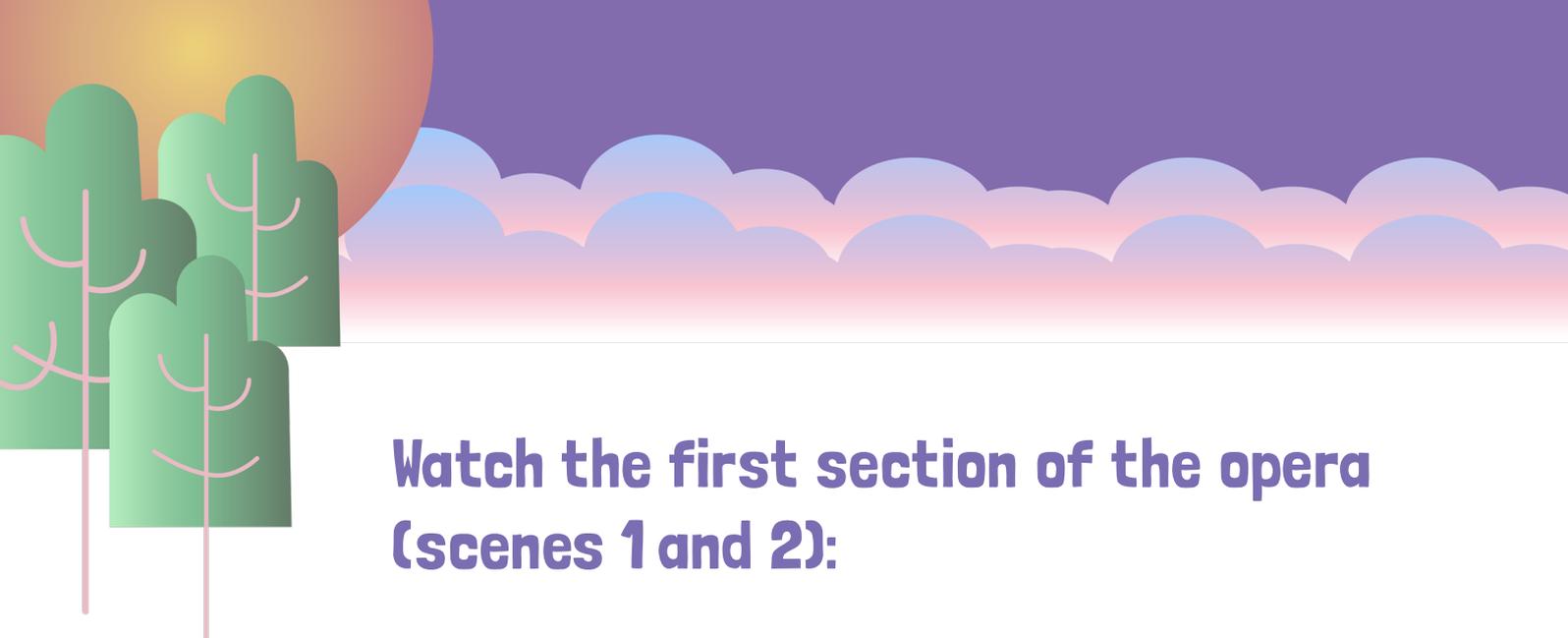
ENGLISH TOURING **OPERA**



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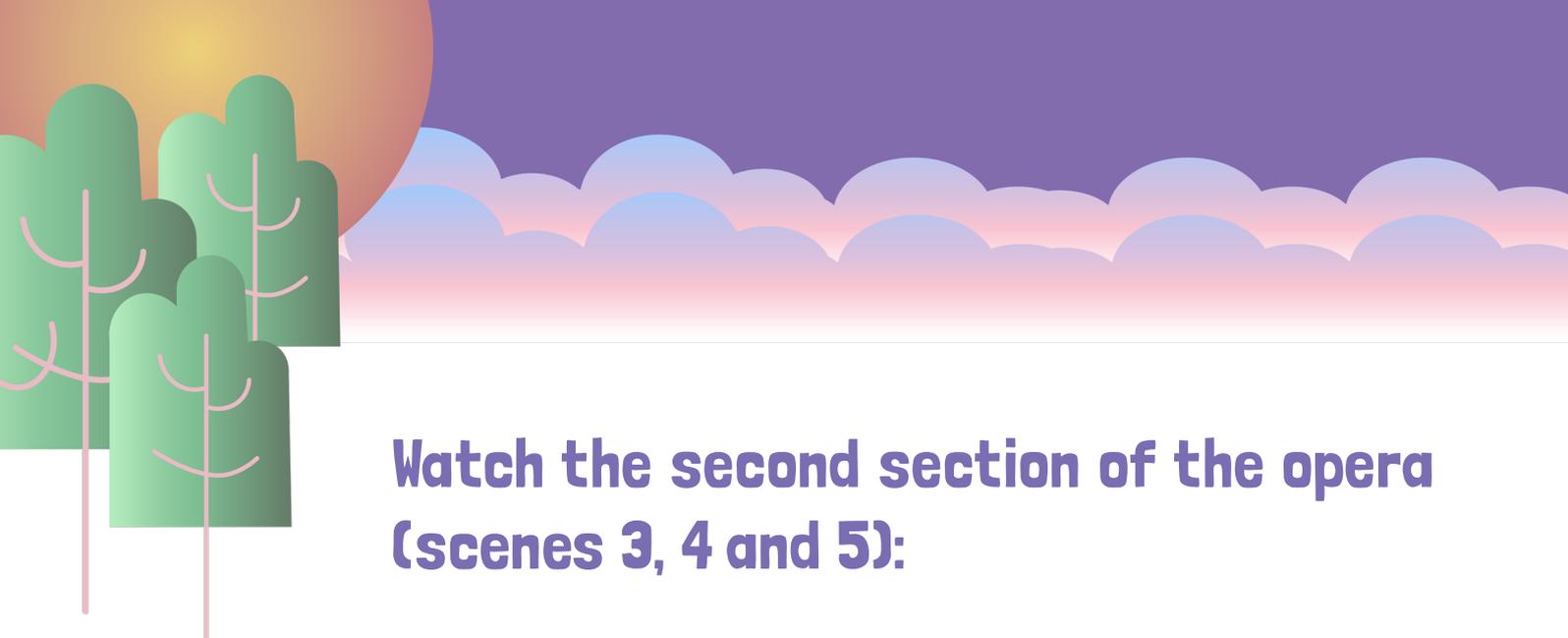
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Watch the first section of the opera (scenes 1 and 2):

- **Scene 1:** As you are watching the film together, join in with the actions of Lulu, Monty and Tom. Find a soft ball. See if your child can hold the ball in just one hand and then in just the other hand. Encourage them to move it from one hand to the other. Help them to feel the shape of the ball with their hands. Roll it back and forward to each other along the ground. Sing along to the “Roll the ball” refrain.
- **Scene 2:** Encourage your child to watch where the moon goes and follow it with their eyes. See if they can lift the ball up over their head and move it round in small circles.
- Help your child to make a shaker by putting some rice into a clean, dry, plastic bottle and screwing the top on tightly or give your child a wooden spoon and a pot so that they can play along to the music.
- Paint or draw a picture of the moon with your child and help them to colour it in using their choice of colour.





Watch the second section of the opera (scenes 3, 4 and 5):

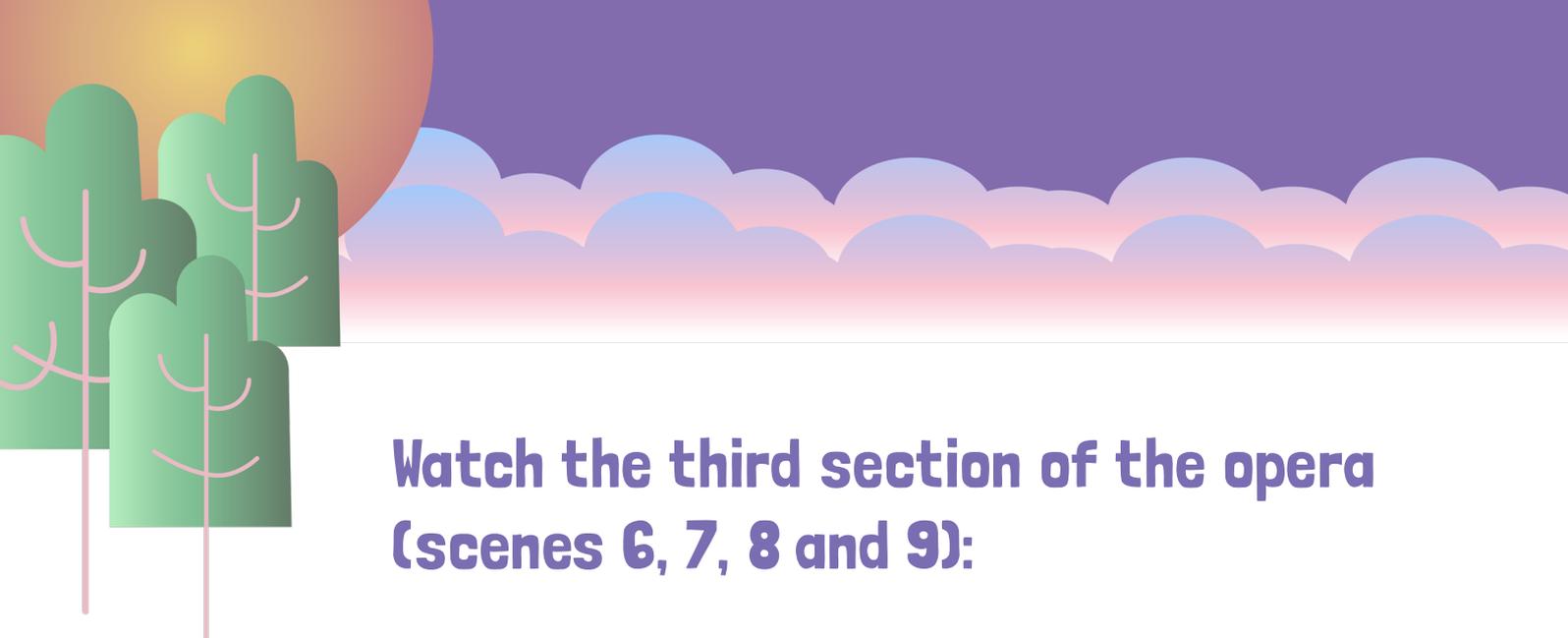
- **Scene 3:** Place some towels on the floor and put a bowl of water on top. Encourage your child to use their fingers to gently splash the water. See if they can make some splashing sounds when the moon is crying.

- **Scene 4:** Encourage your child to stay really quiet and listen to what sounds they can hear all around them. Put your finger in front of your lips and say “shh”.

- Wave goodbye to the ladybirds in the film as they all leave and suggest that your child waves too.

- **Scene 5:** Place a small mirror on the floor so it looks like the water when the moon is shining in it. Look into the mirror to see your reflection. Make different facial expressions and look at them in the mirror as you do so. Try to copy your child’s expression and see if they can copy yours. Say “my face” when looking at your reflection. Point to your child’s reflection and use their name to explain it is their face.





Watch the third section of the opera (scenes 6, 7, 8 and 9):

- **Scene 6:** Lie on the floor and place your child on your tummy. See if they can move their arms and legs in a swimming action.
- Stand up and move around while waving your arms so that you can join in with the jellyfish. See if your child can copy your actions.
- **Scene 7:** Encourage your child to join in with Lulu, Monty and Tom as they count the rabbits
- **Scene 8:** Help your child to find something shiny around the house – a button, a spoon, tin foil. Talk about what it feels like and if it makes a sound.
- **Scene 9:** Wave goodbye at the end and join in with the Makaton way of saying “thank you” in sign language by touching your fingertips to your chin then moving your hand away as if you were blowing a kiss. See if your child can copy your actions.

