



Reading Guide for Parents & Educators

Rhythm. Curiosity. Collaboration.

About the Series

DJ ORANGES is a children's book series that introduces real DJ concepts through storytelling. Each story follows DJ Oranges and his crew as they learn skills like beatmatching, phrasing, looping, and more. But these aren't just stories about music—they're stories about listening, collaboration, and finding your place in the mix.

Recommended Ages: 4-8 years (read-aloud), 6-10 years (independent reading)

The Books

DJ ORANGES: The Full Session — The complete collection with all 8 stories

DJ ORANGES: The First Session — Stories 1-4: Beatmatching, Phrasing, Looping, Stage Presence

DJ ORANGES: The Next Session — Stories 5-8: Pacing, Reading the Crowd, Backups, Harmony

DJ ORANGES: Mix & Color — A coloring book companion

Story Guide & Discussion Questions

Story 1: Siawave & Turbo Tempo's Beat Sync Showdown

DJ Concept: Beatmatching | **Characters:** Siawave, Turbo Tempo, DJ Oranges

Summary: Twin DJs Siawave and Turbo Tempo perform back-to-back, but Turbo Tempo's track comes in too fast. Together, they learn to listen and adjust until their beats align.

The Lesson: When two songs play at different speeds, DJs adjust one track slower or faster so both beats land together.

Life Skill: Working together, listening to others, making adjustments

Discussion Questions:

- Why did the music sound wrong when Turbo Tempo's beat came in too fast?
- How did Siawave help fix the problem?
- Can you think of a time you had to work with someone to fix something together?
- What does it feel like when things "click" into place?

Try It Activity: Clap your hands to a steady beat. Now march your feet to match. Try speeding up or slowing down. Can you keep the rhythm locked?

Story 2: Remix Remy's Rhythm Rescue

DJ Concept: Phrasing | **Characters:** Remix Remy, DJ Oranges

Summary: DJ Oranges rushes through his set without giving songs room to breathe. Remix Remy steps in and shows him how to wait for the right moment to bring in the next track.

The Lesson: Songs are built in sections called phrases. DJs wait for the end of one phrase before starting the next track.

Life Skill: Patience, structure, knowing when to wait

Discussion Questions:

- Why did the crowd stop dancing when DJ Oranges rushed?
- What did Remix Remy do differently?
- Why is it important to give things space and time?
- Can you think of something that works better when you don't rush it?

Try It Activity: Clap four times to make a bar. Count eight bars in your head. Try starting your clap on the next phrase. Can you feel where the switch should go?

Story 3: Sampler Sam Starts the Loop

DJ Concept: Looping | **Characters:** Sampler Sam, DJ Oranges

Summary: When tracks end too quickly and energy crashes, Sampler Sam saves the flow by repeating a clean four-bar section, giving DJ Oranges time to prepare the next track.

The Lesson: When a track ends too fast, DJs keep the beat going with a loop—repeating a short section so the energy stays smooth.

Life Skill: Preparation, staying calm under pressure, being dependable

Discussion Questions:

- What went wrong when DJ Oranges jumped from track to track too fast?
- How did Sampler Sam's loop help save the set?
- Why is it helpful to have something you can repeat when you need more time?
- Who is someone you can depend on when things get tricky?

Try It Activity: Clap four times in a row. Keep that same pattern going. Add a stomp on top. Can you hold the loop without slipping?

Story 4: Boombox Boomer — Legends Don't Retire

DJ Concept: Stage Presence | **Characters:** Boombox Boomer, Siawave, Turbo Tempo, DJ Oranges

Summary: The legendary Boombox Boomer taught Siawave and Turbo Tempo everything they know. Now he watches from the crowd and sees a spark in DJ Oranges worth passing the torch to.

The Lesson: Great DJs don't just press play—they perform. Stage presence is knowing when to hold still and when to let loose.

Life Skill: Confidence, timing, mentorship, legacy

Discussion Questions:

- What made Boombox Boomer a great DJ?
- Why did he decide to pass the torch to DJ Oranges?
- What's the difference between just playing music and performing?
- Who has taught you something important? How did they do it?

Try It Activity: Stand tall and freeze. Count to 8, then strike a pose. Hold it. Feel the tension. Can you make the beat wait for you?

Story 5: Snowflow Snowflake's Flow Control

DJ Concept: Set Pacing | **Characters:** Snowflow Snowflake, DJ Oranges

Summary: DJ Oranges plays all his biggest tracks back-to-back with no breaks. Snowflow Snowflake shows him how to pace a set like a journey—with peaks, valleys, and breathing room.

The Lesson: Great sets take the crowd on a journey. Set pacing means guiding the flow so the beat has room to grow.

Life Skill: Balance, planning ahead, emotional awareness

Discussion Questions:

- Why didn't playing all the best songs at once work?
- What did Snowflow Snowflake teach DJ Oranges about building energy?
- Can you think of a story or movie that has highs and lows? Why does that work?
- How do you pace yourself when you have a big day ahead?

Try It Activity: Play a high-energy song. Now try a calm one next. Can you feel the shift? Which would you play after that?

Story 6: DJ Oranges and the Mid-Set Pivot

DJ Concept: Reading the Crowd | **Characters:** DJ Oranges

Summary: DJ Oranges plays his favorite tracks, but the crowd isn't responding. He learns to watch the room, adjust his choices, and play what the crowd needs—not just what he wants.

The Lesson: DJs watch the audience. If energy is low, they switch it up. Reading the crowd means noticing how the room feels.

Life Skill: Empathy, flexibility, reading social cues

Discussion Questions:

- How did DJ Oranges know the crowd wasn't enjoying his set?
- What did he change to make things better?
- Have you ever had to change your plan because of how others were feeling?
- Why is it important to pay attention to people around you?

Try It Activity: Put on one of your favorite songs. Look around—are people moving? Nodding? Smiling? If not, switch tracks. Try until you find one that gets a reaction.

Story 7: DJ Oranges and the Backup Plan

DJ Concept: Backups & Preparation | **Characters:** DJ Oranges, Remix Remy, Sampler Sam

Summary: Mid-set, the equipment fails. Sparks fly, the decks go dark. But Remix Remy and Sampler Sam have backup gear ready, and the show goes on.

The Lesson: DJs always prepare for the unexpected. Backups keep the set alive so the show never stops when gear fails.

Life Skill: Preparation, problem-solving, teamwork in crisis

Discussion Questions:

- What happened when the equipment failed?
- How did the crew save the show?
- Why is it smart to have a backup plan?
- Can you think of a time something didn't go as planned? What did you do?

Try It Activity: Unplug your headphones or turn off your speaker. What's your backup? Try another speaker, earbuds, or clap the beat. When you're ready to play again, you'll already be in time.

Story 8: DJ Oranges and the Treasure of Harmony Cave

DJ Concept: Harmony & Collaboration | **Characters:** DJ Oranges, Siawave, Turbo Tempo, Sampler Sam, Remix Remy

Summary: The crew journeys to Harmony Cave, where crystals only open to music. Each crew member contributes their unique sound, and together they create something none could make alone.

The Lesson: Music isn't just one sound—it's layers working together. When everyone listens, sounds blend into harmony.

Life Skill: Collaboration, valuing differences, creating together

Discussion Questions:

- Why couldn't one DJ open the cave alone?
- What did each crew member bring to the music?
- What's something you've created with others that you couldn't have made alone?
- Why is it special when different people work together?

Try It Activity: Hum a note and hold it steady. Ask a friend to hum a different note at the same time. Do they sound good together? That's harmony.

DJ Vocabulary Guide

| Term | Definition |
|-------------------|--|
| Beatmatching | Making two songs play at the same speed so their beats line up |
| Phrasing | Understanding the structure of music—verses, choruses, and when changes happen |
| Looping | Repeating a section of music to extend a moment or build energy |
| Set Pacing | Controlling the energy flow—knowing when to build up and when to cool down |
| Stage Presence | Connecting with the crowd through confidence, timing, and engagement |
| Reading the Crowd | Watching the audience to know what they need and adjusting accordingly |
| Backup/Redundancy | Having spare equipment ready in case something fails |
| Harmony | Multiple sounds or parts working together to create something unified |
| Drop | The moment when the beat kicks in after a build-up |
| Cue | A signal or marker that tells you when to start the next action |
| BPM | Beats Per Minute—how fast a song is |
| Mix/Blend | Smoothly transitioning from one song to another |

Tips for Reading Together

- Read the story first, then go back and try the "Try It" activity together
- Ask the discussion questions during or after reading. There are no wrong answers!
- Connect the DJ concepts to everyday life (teamwork, patience, preparation)
- Play music while reading to set the mood
- Let kids lead the activities and make their own beats
- Revisit stories—kids will notice new things each time

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*"These aren't just stories about music. They're stories about **listening**. About **remembering**. And about finding **your** place in the mix."*