

“**THE TROUT**” (first published in *A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass* in 1912)

Naughty little speckled trout,
Can't I coax you to come out?
Is it such great fun to play
In the water every day?

Do you pull the Naiads' hair,
Hiding in the lilies there?
Do you hunt for fishes' eggs,
Or watch tadpoles grow their legs?

Do the little trouts have school
In some deep sun-glinted pool,
And in recess play at tag
Round that bed of purple flag?

I have tried so hard to catch you,
Hours and hours I've sat to watch you;
But you never will come out,
Naughty little speckled trout!

VOCABULARY

naiad = a water nymph, a young girl of the water
sun-glinted = sparkling with light from the sun
flag = a plant from the iris family

AMY LOWELL (1874-1925)

Amy Lowell was a famous American poet and writer. Initially Ms. Lowell was inspired at a young age to write poetry after witnessing an outstanding theatrical performance. She dedicated her life to writing and promoting the work and careers of other writers. Ms. Lowell also enjoyed raising English-bred sheepdogs on her family's estate. One of Ms. Lowell's poetry collections, *What's O'Clock*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1926, a year after her death.

TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

This piece features two types of scales young singers do not usually sing—chromatic and whole tone. When teaching the piece, use echo format as a teaching tool. Sing PART I and have the children imitate by singing PART II, so that they can internalize the sound of the half and whole steps. Then, after they learn the melody, divide them into two parts.

While learning “The Speckled Trout,” play chromatic and whole tone scales (m. 29) and have the students listen and compare them. Then play half step and whole tone clusters and see if they can tell them apart. Read the text aloud and have the students try to guess why the author calls the trout “naughty.”

THE SPECKLED TROUT

for 2-part voices and piano

Words by
AMY LOWELL (1874-1925)

Music by
RUTH MORRIS GRAY

Playfully (♩ = ca. 126)
(a tempo)

PART I

PART II

PIANO

Playfully (♩ = ca. 126)
mf (a tempo)

4

5 *mf*

Naugh - ty lit - tle speck - led trout,
Do the lit - tle trouts have school

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mf

Naugh - ty lit - tle speck - led trout,
 Do the lit - tle trouts have school

f

Can't I coax you to come out?
 In some deep sun - glint - ed pool,

f *sub. p*

Can't I coax you to come out?
 In some deep sun - glint - ed pool,

mf

Is it such great fun to play
 And in re - cess play at tag

mf

13

mf

Is it such great fun to play
 And in re - cess play at tag

15

rit.

In the wa - ter ev - 'ry day?
 Round that bed of pur - ple flag?

rit. e decresc.

In the wa - ter ev - 'ry day?
 Round that bed of pur - ple flag?

17

a tempo
mp

Do you pull the Nai - ad's hair,
 I have tried so hard to catch you,

a tempo
mp

19

mp

Do you pull the Nai - ad's hair,
 I have tried so hard to catch you,

21

Hid - ing in the lil - ies and there?
 Hours and hours I've sat and watched you;

23

Hid - ing in the lil - ies and there?
 Hours and hours I've sat and watched you;

25

Do you hunt for fish - es eggs,
 But you nev - er will come out,

27

Do But you hunt for fish - es eggs,
 But you nev - er will come out,

29

rit.
 Or watch tad - poles grow their legs?
 Or watch tad - poles grow their legs?

1.
rit. e decresc.

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31

2.

Naugh - ty lit - tle speck - led,

Naugh - ty lit - tle speck - led,

33

Naugh - ty lit - tle speck - led trout!

Naugh - ty lit - tle speck - led trout!

f

8va

f 3