

Chorus: Rainbow Kids.

Elliot: [sings] Doo-be-do-daa. Sha-doop-dee-doo. Da-da-dee-da-dum.

Billy: What are you doing, Elliot?

Elliot: Oh, I'm just singing. I want to be a great singer one day. [sings] Da-da-dee-da-dum. Sha-wop-a-doodly-day.

Billy: Oh, fun. What kind of singer do you want to be? You could be a rock star, or maybe a fancy opera singer.

Elliot: Those sound fun. I've been listening to a great singer lately, and I want to be like him.

Billy: Oh, who is it?

Elliot: Well, I'll give you a hint. He was also very famous for playing the trumpet. Can you guess who it is?

Instructor: Welcome to Stories for Kids by Lingokids, where we learn about extraordinary people and their stories. This Black History Month, we're honoring a musical hero who not only played beautiful music, but also stood up for what's right and fair. Ready to find out who it is? Let's start this musical journey.

Billy: Who is this mysterious musician?

Elliot: It's Louis Armstrong.

Instructor: You have great taste in music, Elliot. Louis Armstrong was a legendary singer and trumpet player.

Billy: Oh, what kind of music did he play? Was he a rock star?

Elliot: No, not really.

Billy: Did he sing opera?

Elliot: Hmm-- No.

Instructor: Actually, Louis Armstrong played a type of music called jazz.

Billy: I've heard of jazz. It's groovy and cool. Jazzy. [chuckles]

Instructor: Yes, jazz uses very unique melodies, tricky musical chords, and fun rhythms. It's usually full of emotion and feeling.

Elliot: That's why I love Louis Armstrong. His voice is so full of feelings.

Instructor: Yes, his voice and trumpet playing were very powerful. Not only because he was a great musician, but also because his music inspired a lot of people.

Billy: How?

Instructor: During his time, Louis Armstrong and other black or African Americans were often treated badly and unfairly just because of their skin color. Armstrong faced many challenges along the way, but he used his songs to bring people together, and he spoke out against unfairness and inspired others to do the same.

Billy: That's very brave.

Elliot: Yes, he's a hero. Now you see why I want to sing like him. [sings] Doo-be-doo-dah. Sha-doop-dee-doo.

Billy: What are you singing, Elliot? It sounds like gibberish.

Instructor: It's not exactly gibberish, but they aren't words either. It's a popular technique in jazz called scatting.

Billy: Scatting? That sounds fun. How do you do scatting?

Elliot: It's very easy. I could teach you if you want.

Billy: Yes, that would be fun.

Instructor: Lingokids listeners, do you want to learn how to scat with Elliot?

[music]

Chorus: Yes.

Instructor: Great. All right, Elliot, teach us how to do it.

Elliot: Okay. First, let's start with some simple warm-ups. Try singing la-la-la with me, just to warm up our voices. Ready? Here we go. La-la-la.

Billy: La-la.

Elliot: La-la-la.

Billy: La-la-la.

Elliot: La-la-la.

Billy: La-la-la.

Elliot: La-la-la-la. La-la-la.

Billy: La-la-la.

Elliot: La-la-la.

Billy: La-la-la.

Elliot: That's great. Now we can try adding some silly sounds to it.

Billy: You add silly sounds to a song?

Instructor: In jazz, a lot of times you make the sounds up as you go. It's like making up your own language.

Billy: What kind of sounds?

Elliot: You can use doo, or bee, or shoo, or bop, or pretty much any sound that you can think of. The trick is to mix them up in different ways.

Billy: Like this? Doop-a-bee-boop.

Elliot: Yes, that's great.

Billy: Okay, I think I get it. Ba-dee-da-da-dee-dee-doo.

Elliot: Nice one. Nice chirping, Billy.

Instructor: Great job. Give yourselves a round of applause.

[applause]

Elliot: Yes. Woo-hoo. Okay, now let's sing with music. Everyone repeat after me. Let's get some music going.

[music]

Instructor: Lingokids listeners, you can sing along, too.

Elliot: Okay, repeat after me. Doo-be-doo-da.

Billy: Doo-be-doo-da.

Elliot: Sha-doop-dee-doo.

Billy: Sha-doop-dee-doo.

Elliot: Da-da-dee-da-dum.

Billy: La-da-dee-da-doo.

Elliot: Sha-wop-a-doodly-day.

Billy: Sha-wop-a-doodly-day.

Elliot: Doo-be-doo-da. Sha-wop-a-da-dee-ba-doop-a-doop-a-doop-a-da-dee-da-dum. Shap-doo. Sha-wop-a-doodly-day.

Instructor: Well done, everyone.

Billy: Wow. Elliot, you're really good at singing.

Instructor: You're a great teacher.

Billy: You're already a great singer. I'm sure Louis Armstrong would be proud.

Elliot: Ah, thanks, everyone.

Instructor: Thank you, Lingokids listeners, for joining us on this musical adventure. We learned about Louis Armstrong, and we even got to practice some jazz scatting with Elliot. Remember, be kind, be brave, and let your unique voice be heard. Until next time, keep playing the music of kindness and fairness.

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