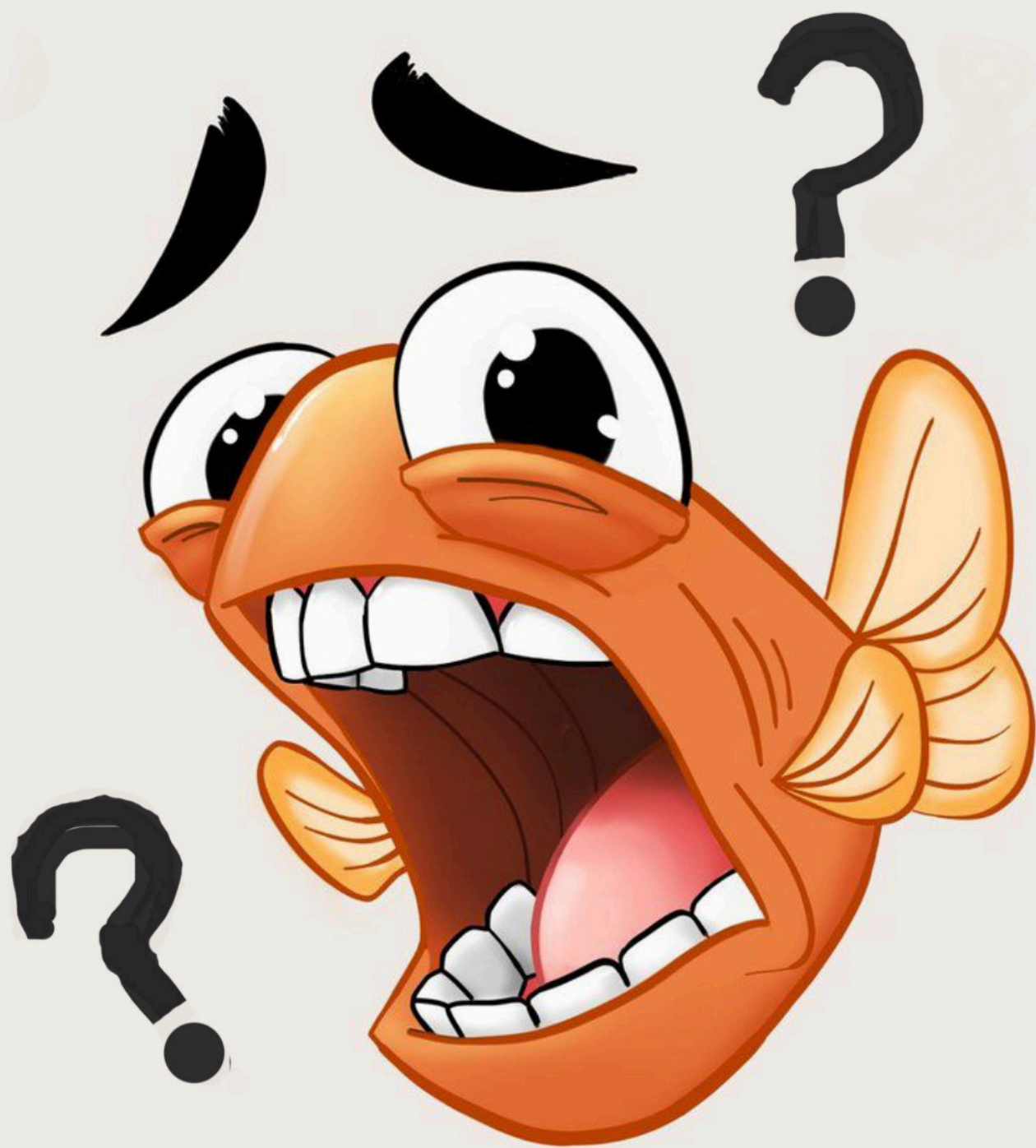




The Tuning Tackle Box

Presented by Karen Houghton and Janet B. Nye

Why
are my
horn
players
so
sharp?



- HORNS come in different shapes and sizes (Kruspe, Geyer, Alexander)
- MOUTHPIECES come in different shapes and sizes
- STUDENTS come in different shapes and sizes



GONE
FISHIN'



UNFAMILIAR
WITH
THE
HORN'S
SLIDES

F HORN (front)



Bb HORN (back)
THUMB LEVER DOWN

■ Main tuning slide:

(the slide attached to the lead pipe)

■ F horn tuning slide(s)

■ Bb horn tuning slide

- **Pull all slides** (they should be pulled the thickness of a student's first finger for good general tuning)
- **Main Tuning Slide** is usually pulled more than the other slides



houghtonhorns



CONN 8D

Bb HORN (thumb lever)

F HORN

WATER SLIDE:

(also tunes F horn)



CONN 6D



Bb HORN (thumb lever)

F HORN



YAMAHA 567



Bb HORN (thumb lever)

F HORN



YAMAHA 668N



Bb HORN (thumb lever)

F HORN

WATER SLIDE:
(also tunes F horn)



HOLTON 179



Bb HORN (thumb lever)

F HORN

WATER SLIDE



HOLTON 378



Bb HORN (thumb lever)

F HORN



KING EROICA



B $\flat$ HORN (thumb lever)

F HORN





VERUS V

Bb HORN (thumb lever)

F HORN

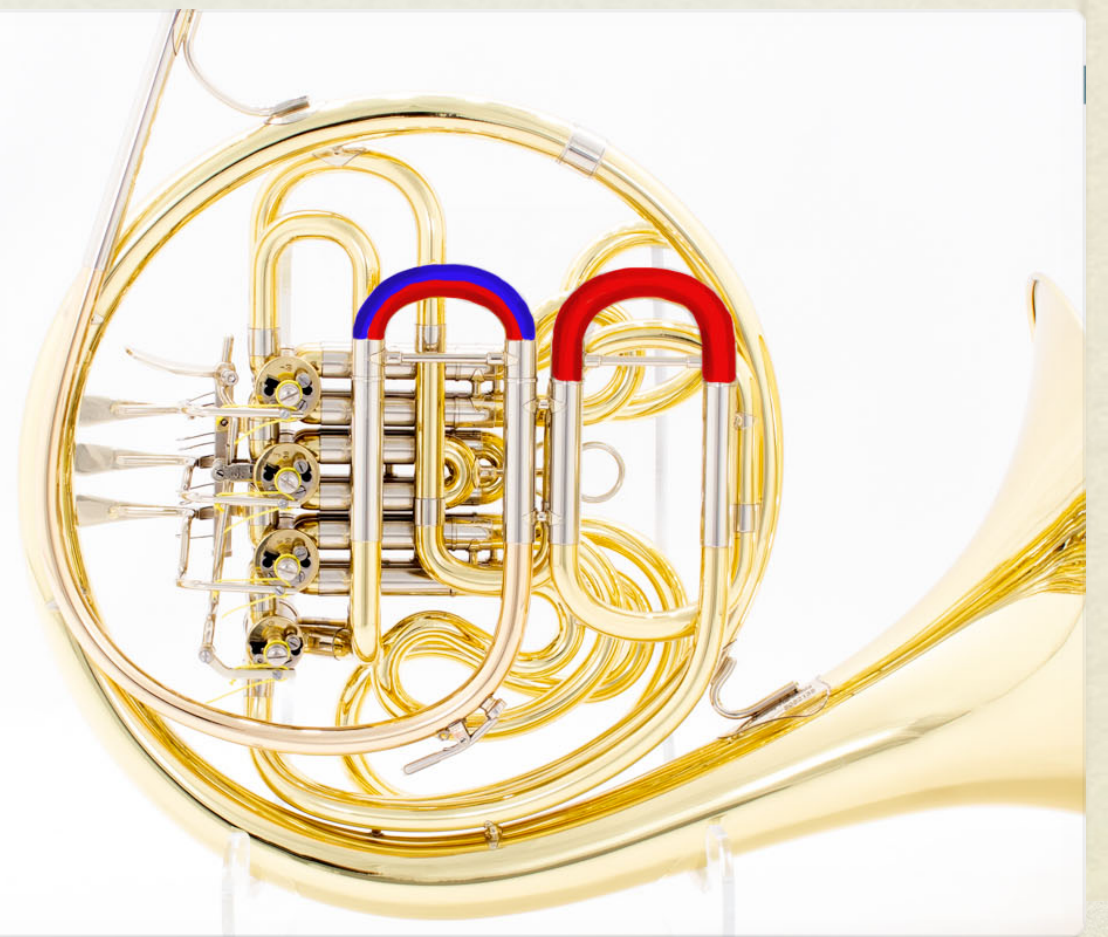


PAXMAN ACADEMY



Bb HORN (thumb lever)

F HORN





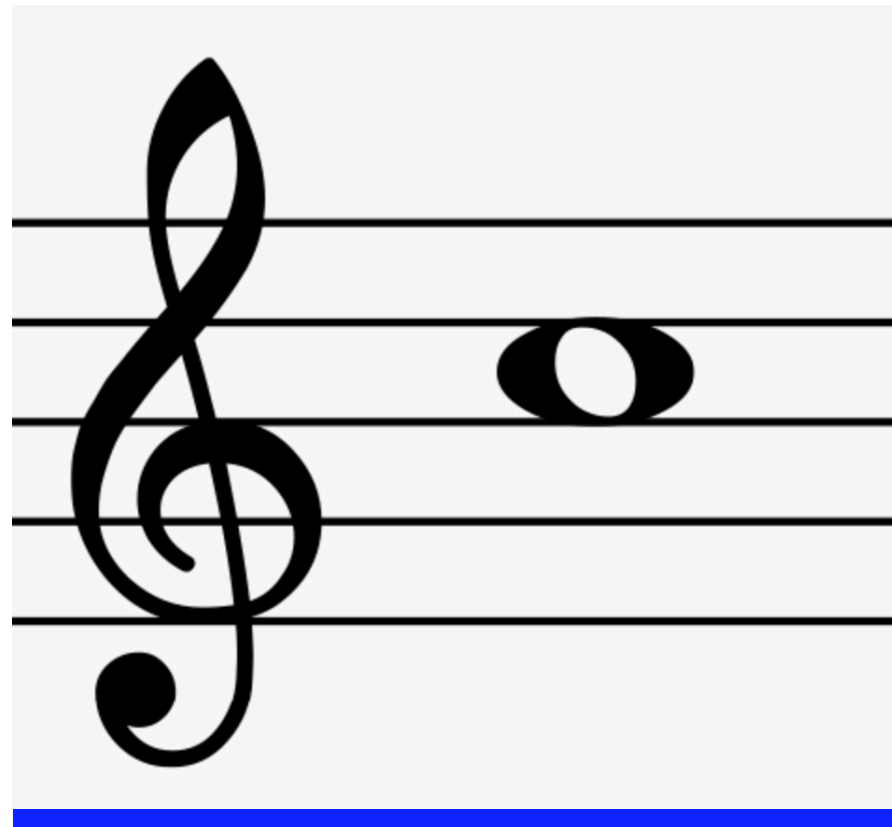
RED FISH WINNER!

TUNING THE DOUBLE HORN

F HORN

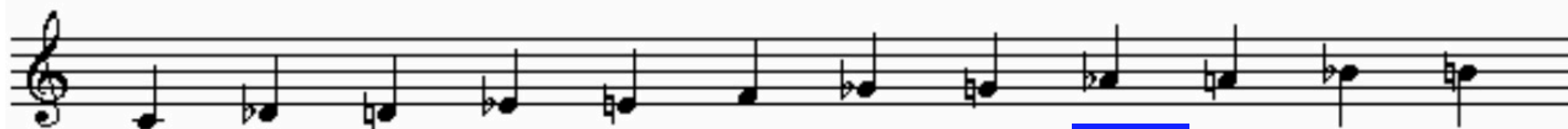


Bb HORN

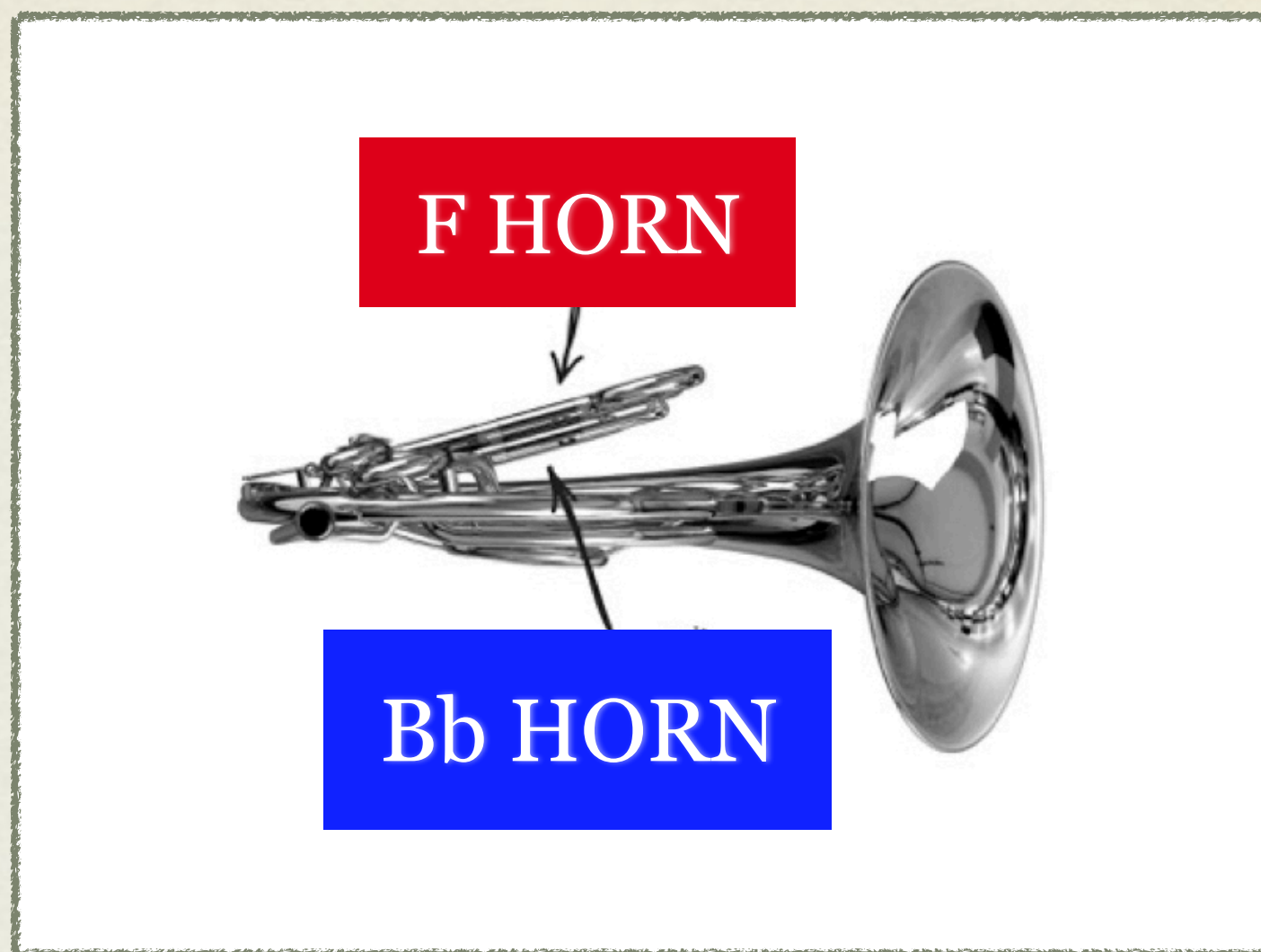


THUMB LEVER DOWN

Standard Double Horn Fingering Usage



FOR
MORE
PRECISE
TUNING:



Use the chromatic pattern: 0, 2, 1, 12, 23
on each side of the horn
and adjust individual slides as needed

THE WINNING SET UP

- SCHOOL and HOME horn should match if possible
- Geyer wrap (main slide and F slide facing up)
- Kruspe wrap (main slide facing up and F slide facing down)



POP QUIZ





houghtonhorns



On this Conn 8D
what slides do
you adjust if...

The F side

The Bb side



is flat

is sharp



This water slide should be
pushed in all the way


houghtonhorns



ANSWER:

Conn 8D

Pull out the
main tuning (Bb/F) slide

Push in the
F tuning slide



POP QUIZ





On this Holton 179
what slides do
you adjust if...

The F side

The Bb side



is flat

is sharp



This water slide should be
pushed in all the way



ANSWER:

Pull out the Bb tuning slide

Holton 179

Push in the
F tuning slide



POP QUIZ



On this Conn 6D
what slides do
you adjust if...



The F side

The Bb side



is sharp

is sharp



Pull out the main tuning
(Bb/F) slide

ANSWER:

Conn 6D



POP QUIZ



On this
Paxman Academy
what slides do
you adjust if...

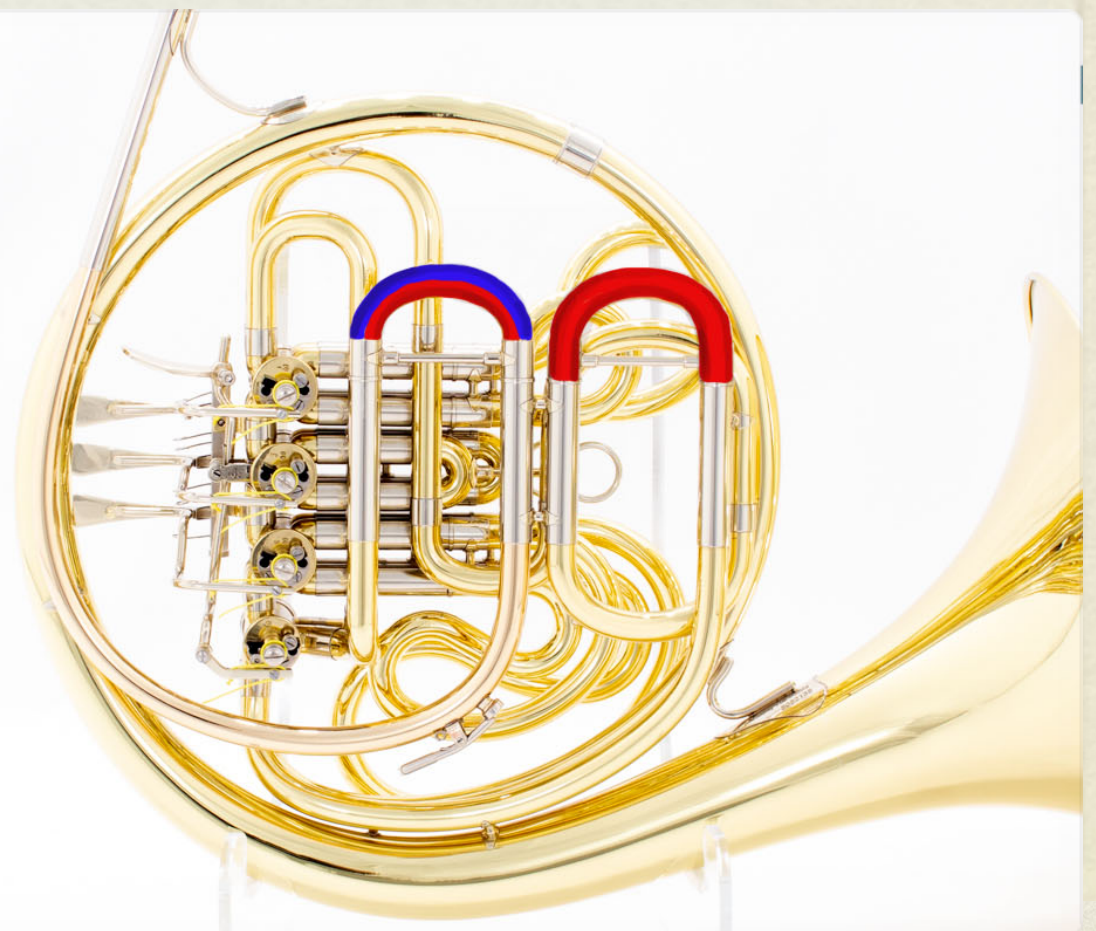
The F side

The Bb side



is flat

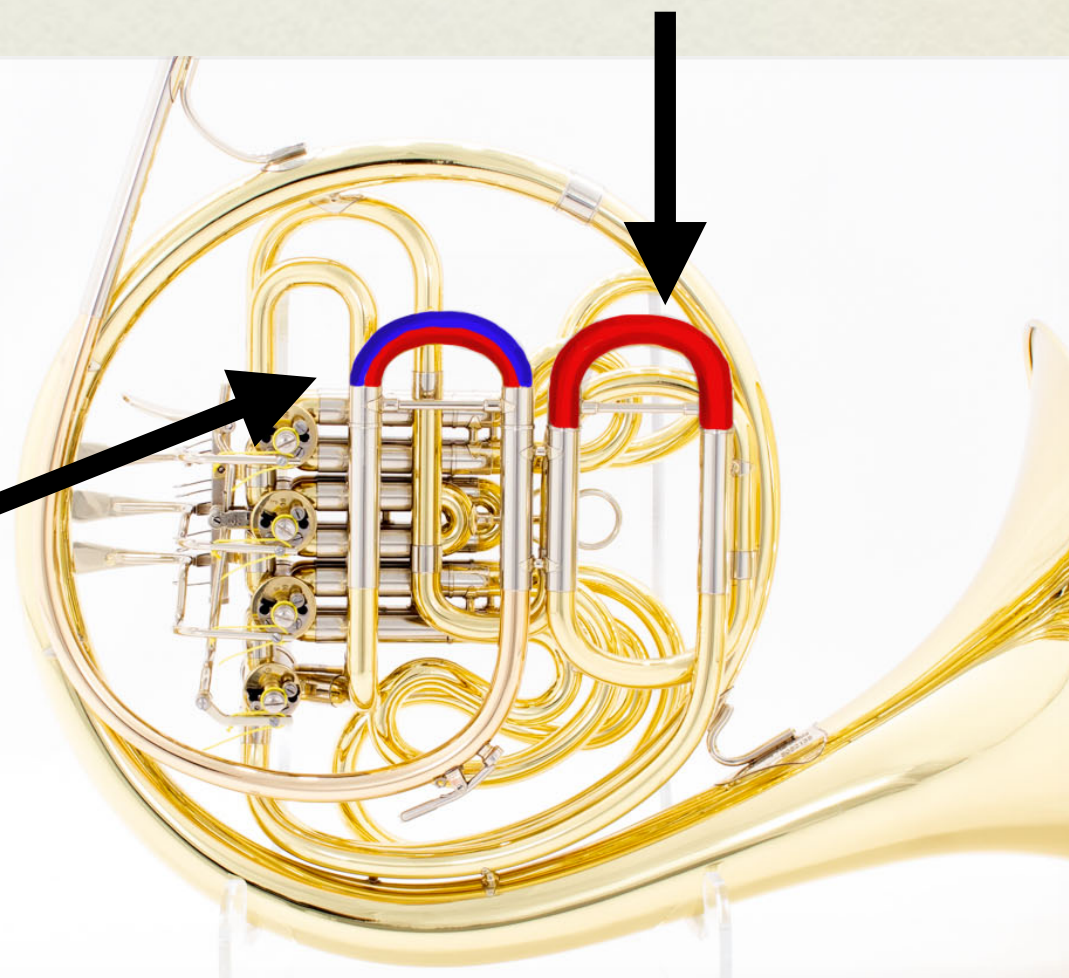
is sharp



ANSWER:

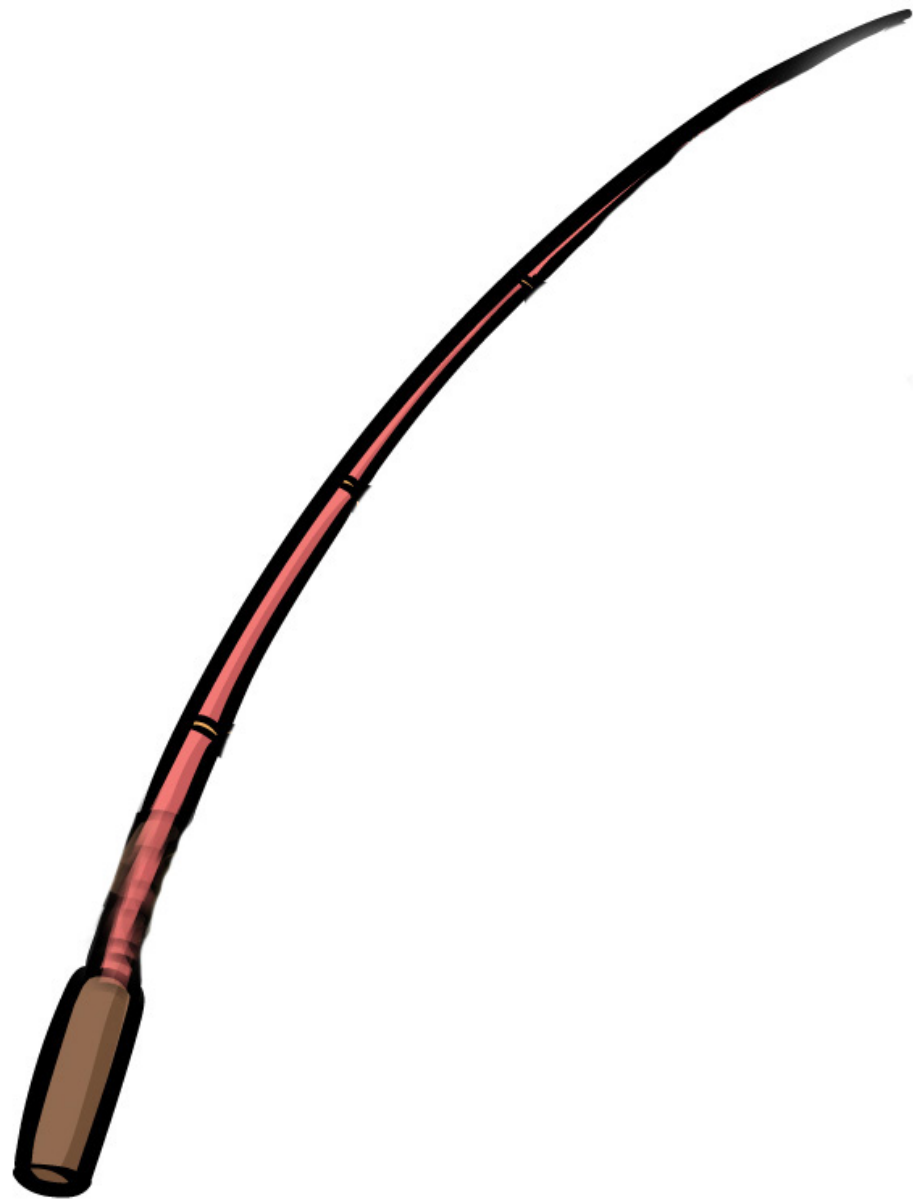
Push in the
F tuning slide

Pull out the
main tuning (Bb/F) slide





BLUE FISH WINNER!



STUDENTS'
LACK OF
TRAINING
&
KNOWLEDGE

- Teach students how temperature impacts their pitch
- Teach students to play with a tuner
- Teach students to play with a drone
- Teach students how to adjust and check slides daily



POOR
POSTURE

INCORRECT LEADPIPE ANGLE

- Head tilted down
- Endurance/pitch is affected



BELL TURNED INWARD

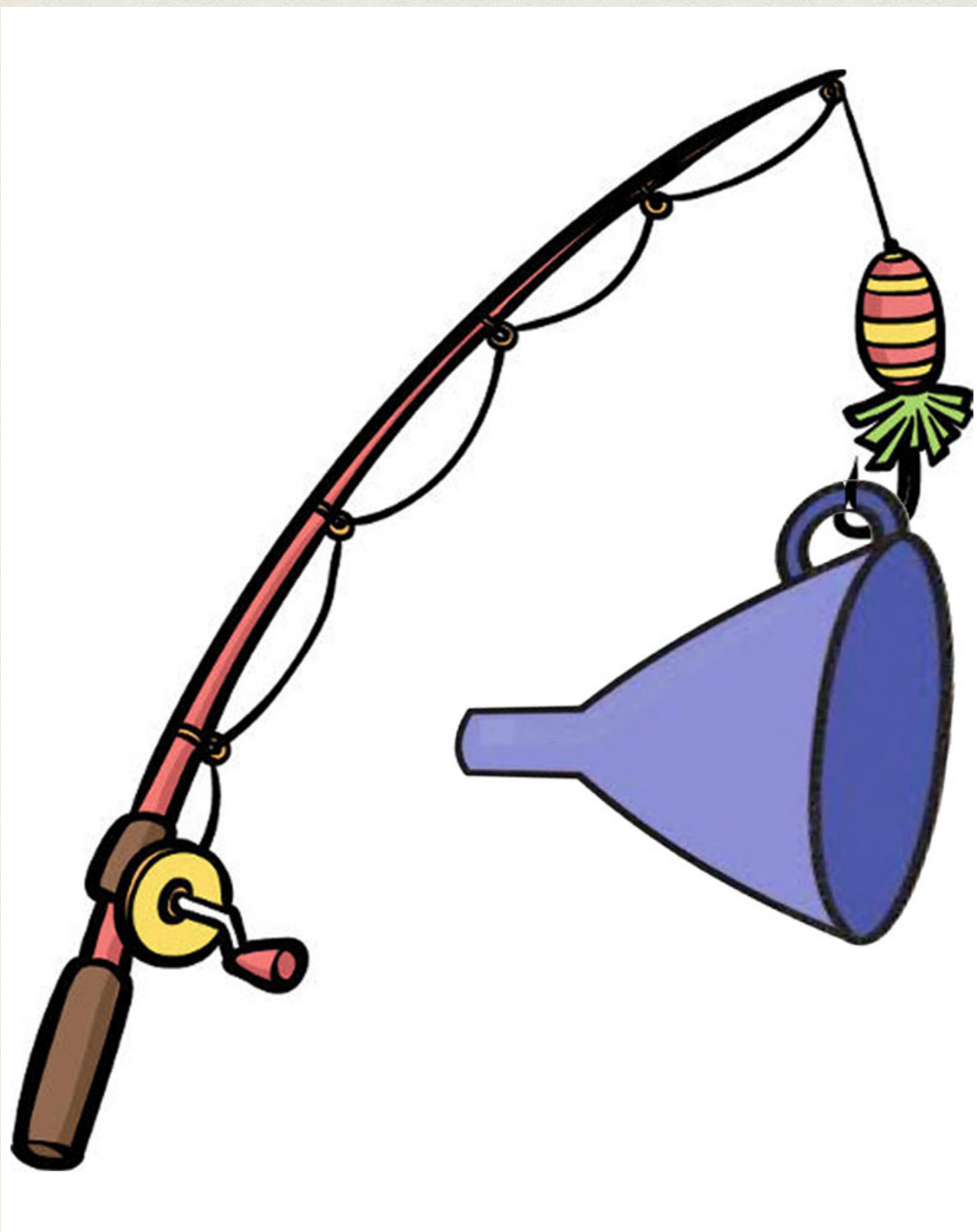
- Legs too close together/
Bell turned inward
- Tone and projection are
affected



CORRECT POSTURE

- Leadpipe angled slightly downward
- Bell ON or OFF the leg is acceptable
- Small player may rest the bell on the chair





WRONG
HAND
POSITION

INCORRECT HAND POSITIONS

- Unfocused sound/raises the pitch
- Bright sound/raises the pitch
- Stuffy sound/lowers the pitch



CORRECT HAND POSITIONS

- **Intermediate position** keeps the young student's hand open
- **Advanced position** with a flat hand works well for on or off the leg players



BEGINNER HAND POSITIONS

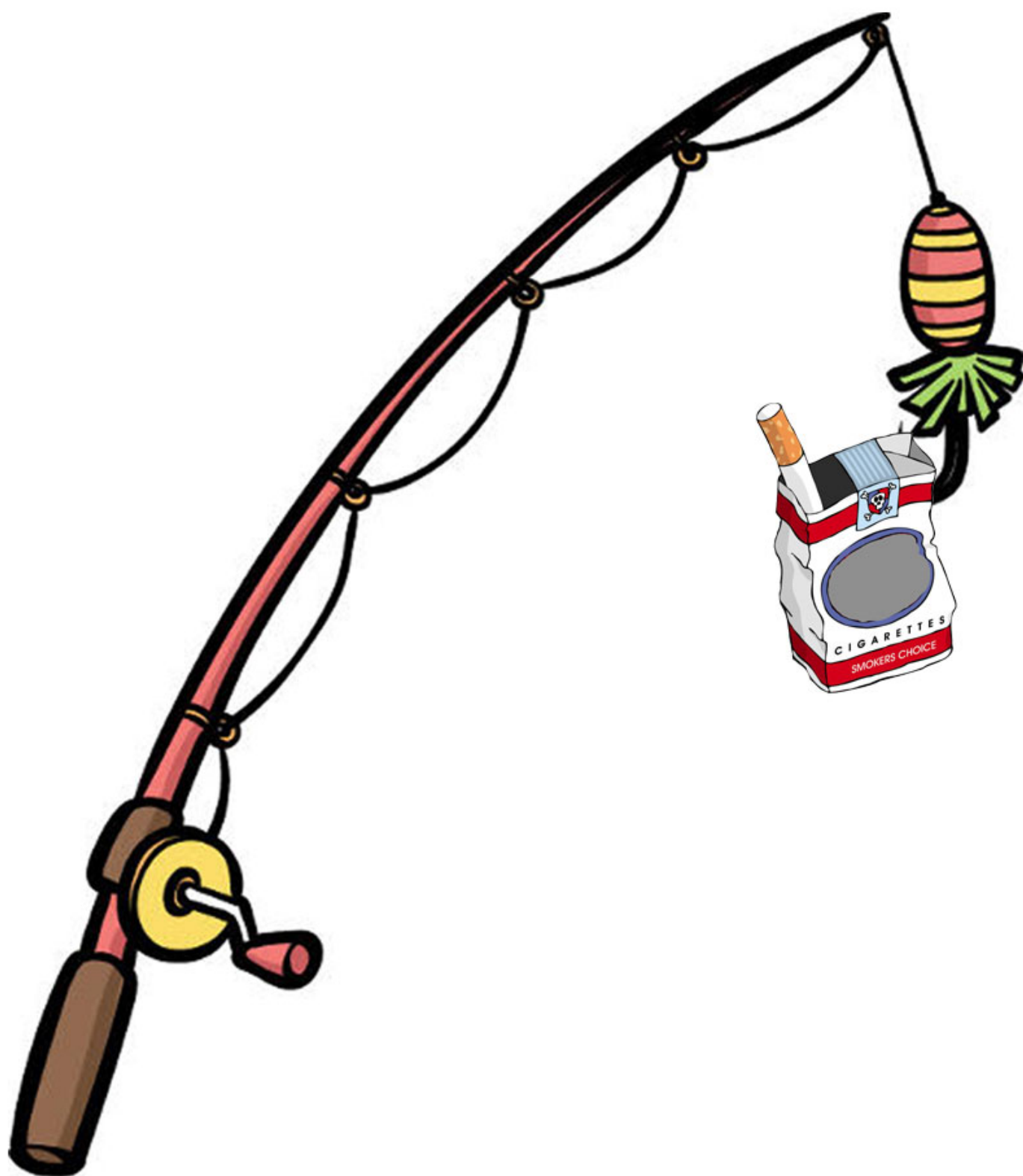
- Temporary hand position (2-4 months)
- Pull the main slide generously to lower the pitch for ear training





EMBOUCHURE ISSUES

- Clenched teeth raises the pitch
- Closed aperture raises the pitch
- Corners pulled back raises the pitch
- **CORRECTION:** Practice horn face and have students take a tall vertical breath

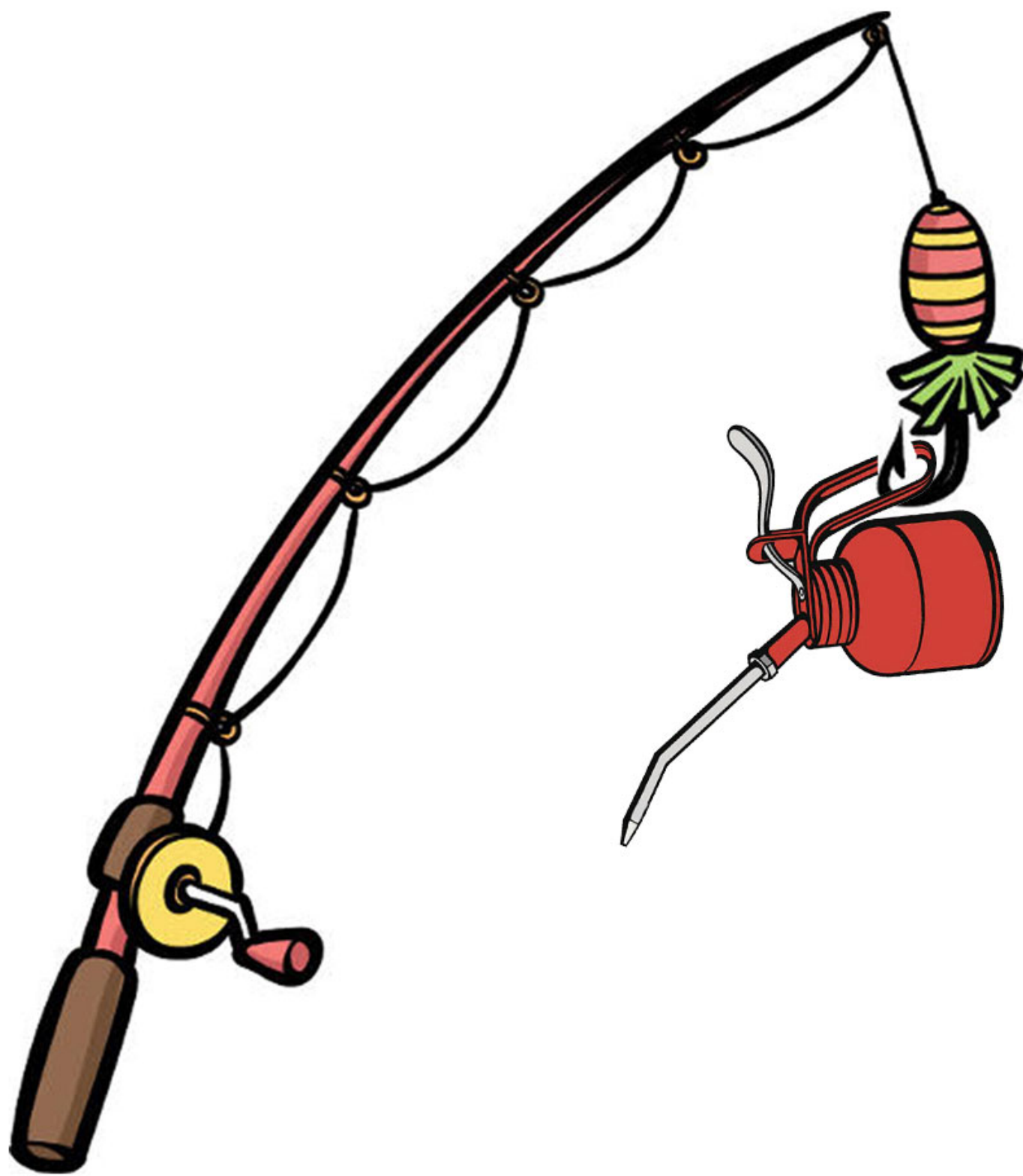


BAD
AIR

- Slow air in high range = lower pitch
- Fast air in low range = higher pitch
- Weak air = poor pitch/core sound
- Tense air = higher pitch
- **CORRECTION:** Breathing awareness

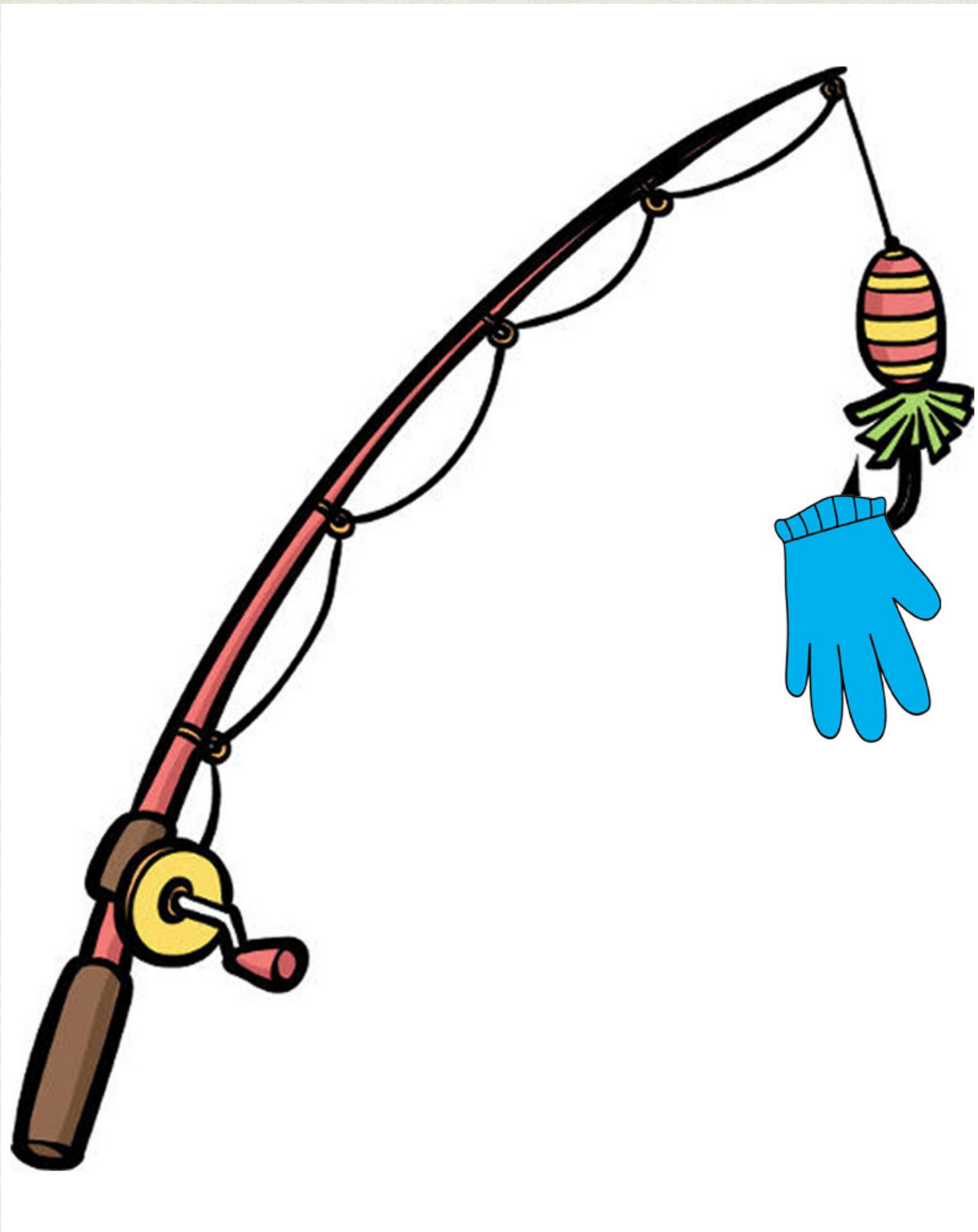


YELLOW FISH WINNER!



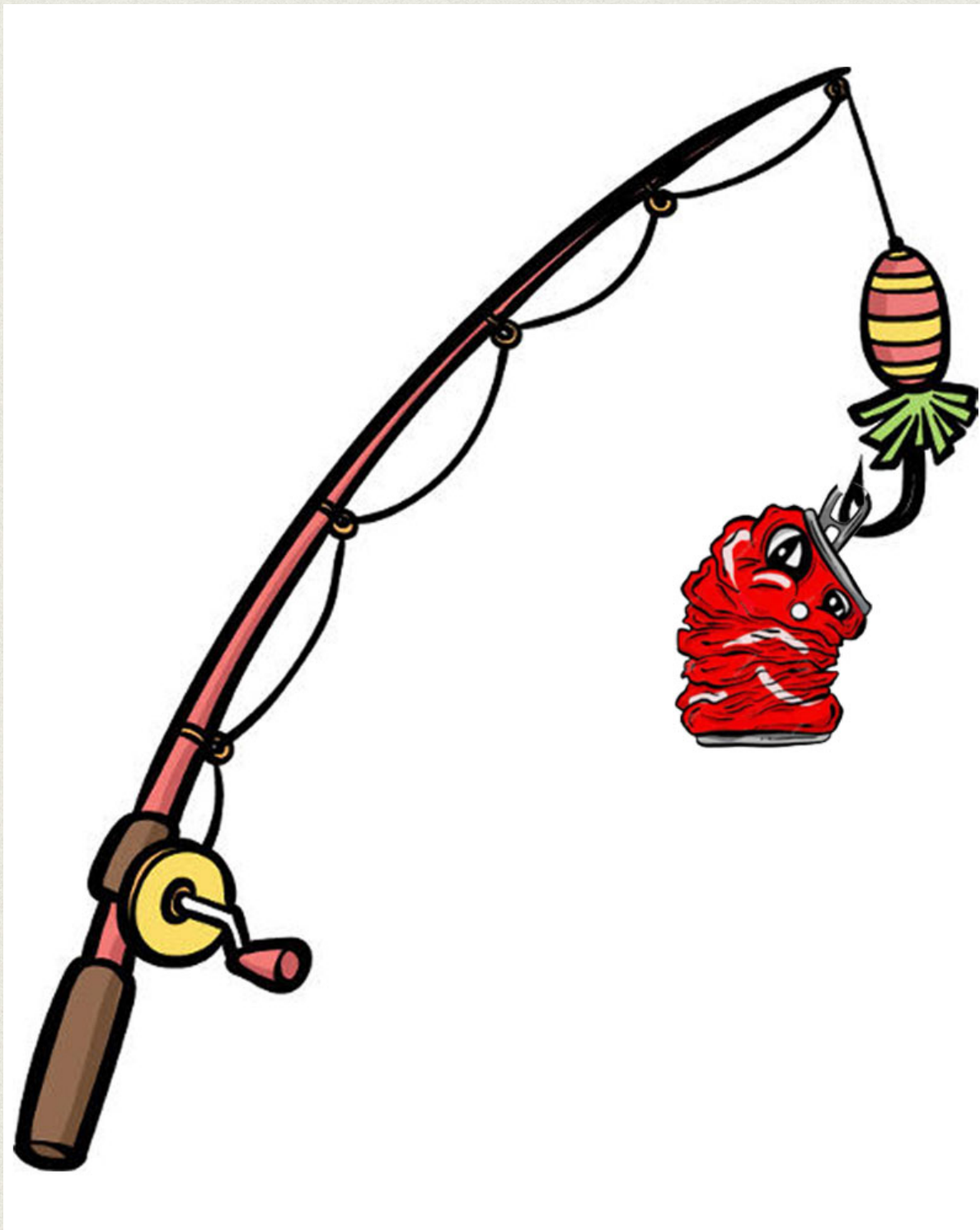
STUCK
SLIDES

- Stuck slides can't be tuned
- **CORRECTION:** prioritize regular instrument maintenance



WRONG
FINGERINGS

- Fingering shouldn't be a guessing game
- **CORRECTION:** assess student fingering knowledge regularly



NOT
KNOWING
TUNING
TENDENCIES

Notes fingered with T12
tend to be sharp

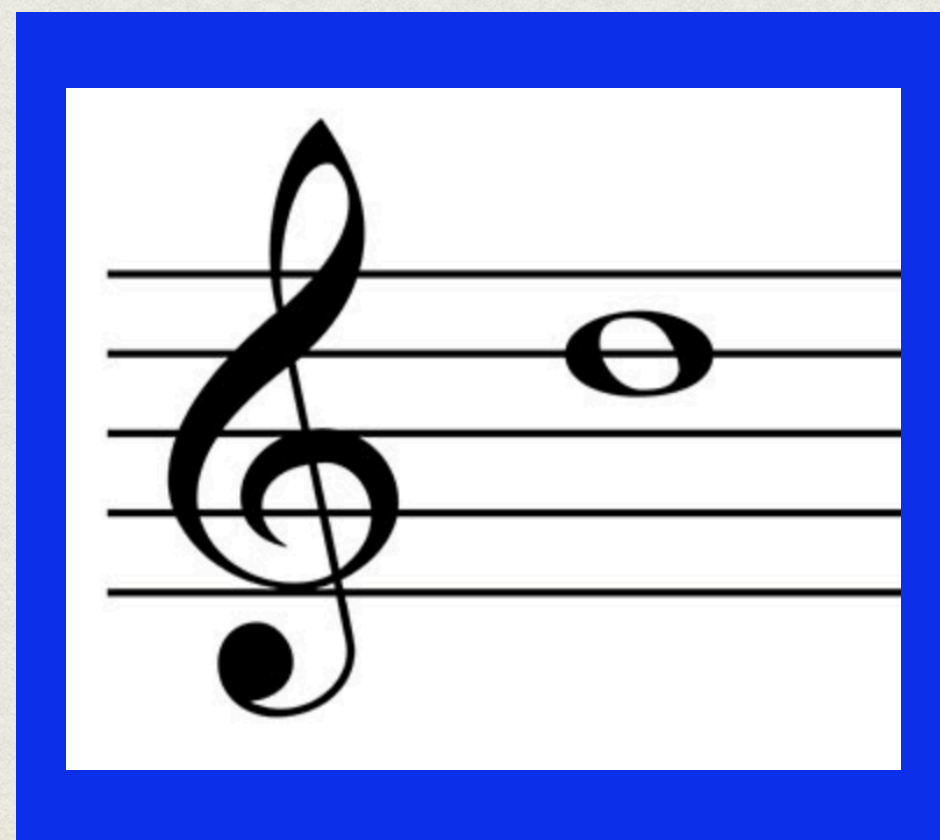
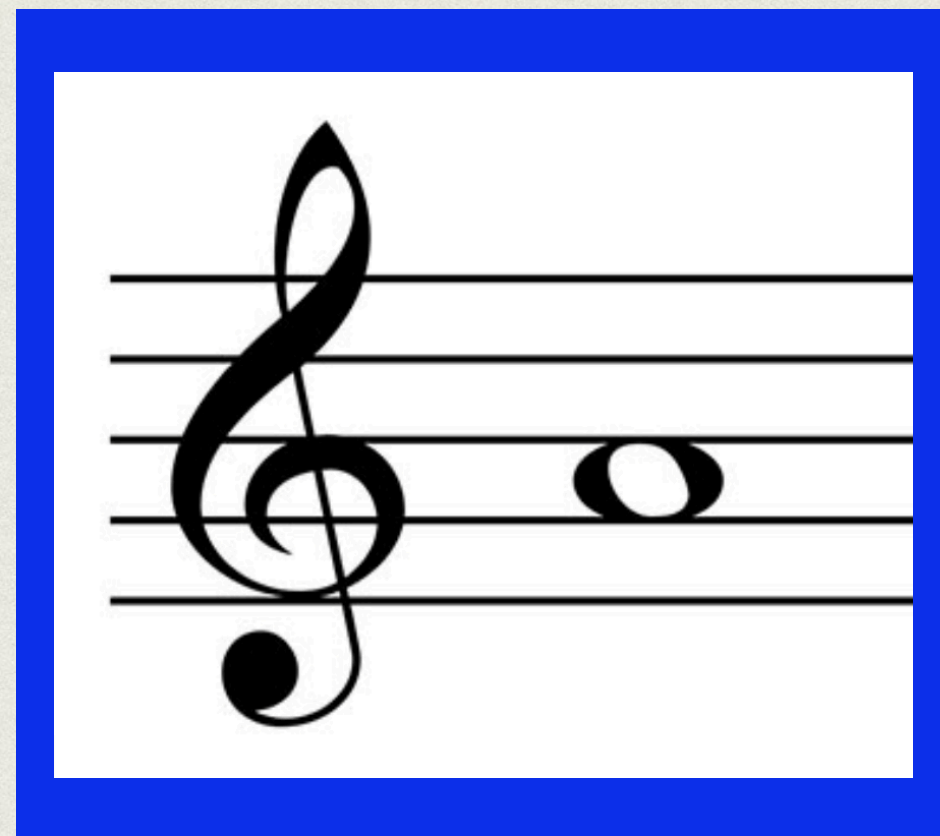
CORRECTION:

Use alternate fingerings
if necessary

Examples

T12=T3

12=3



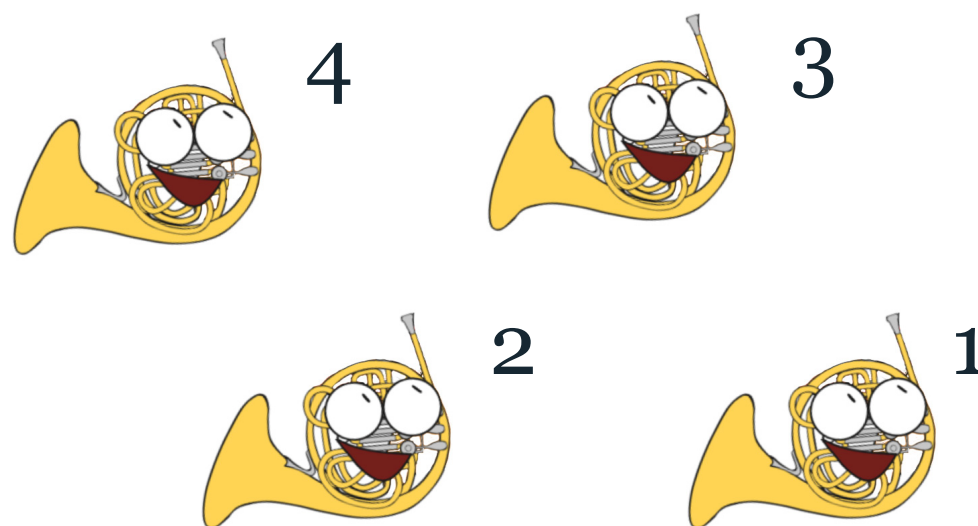


WRONG
SEATING

- Students seated in reverse order are NOT able to match the lead player



CORRECTION:
TWO
IDEAL
SEATING
ARRANGEMENTS

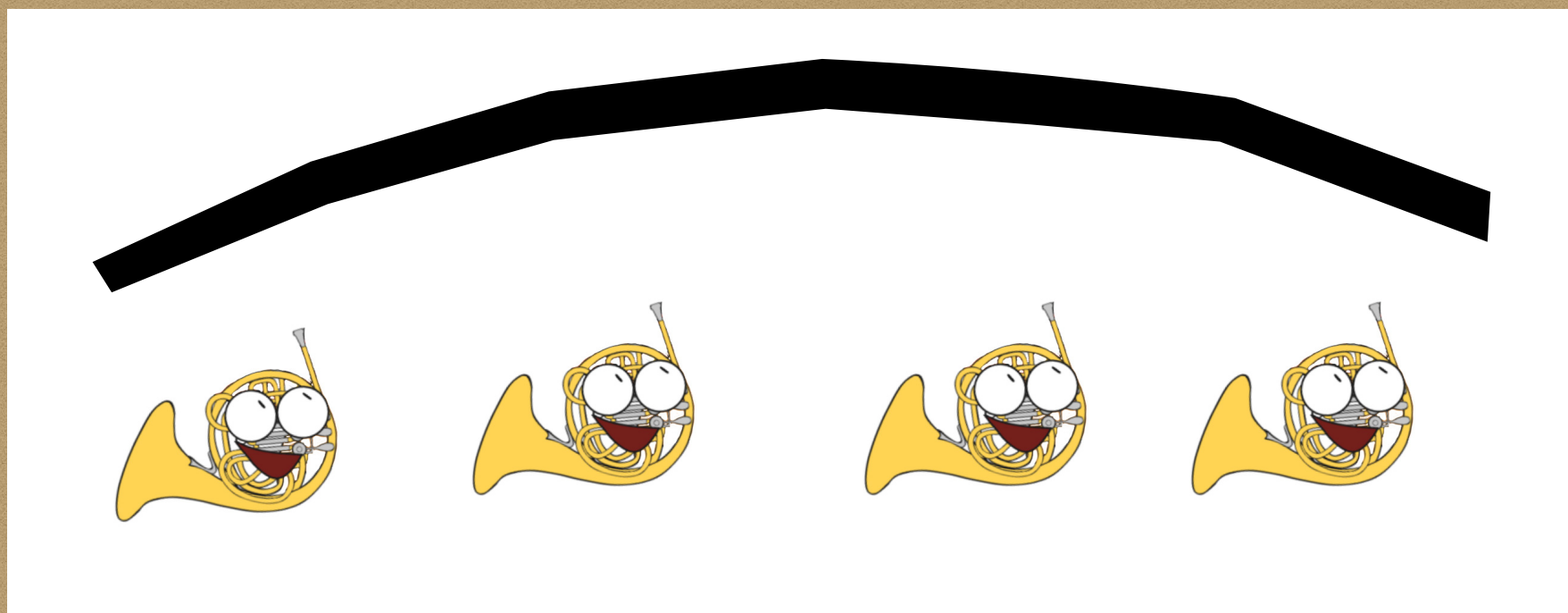




UNABLE
TO HEAR

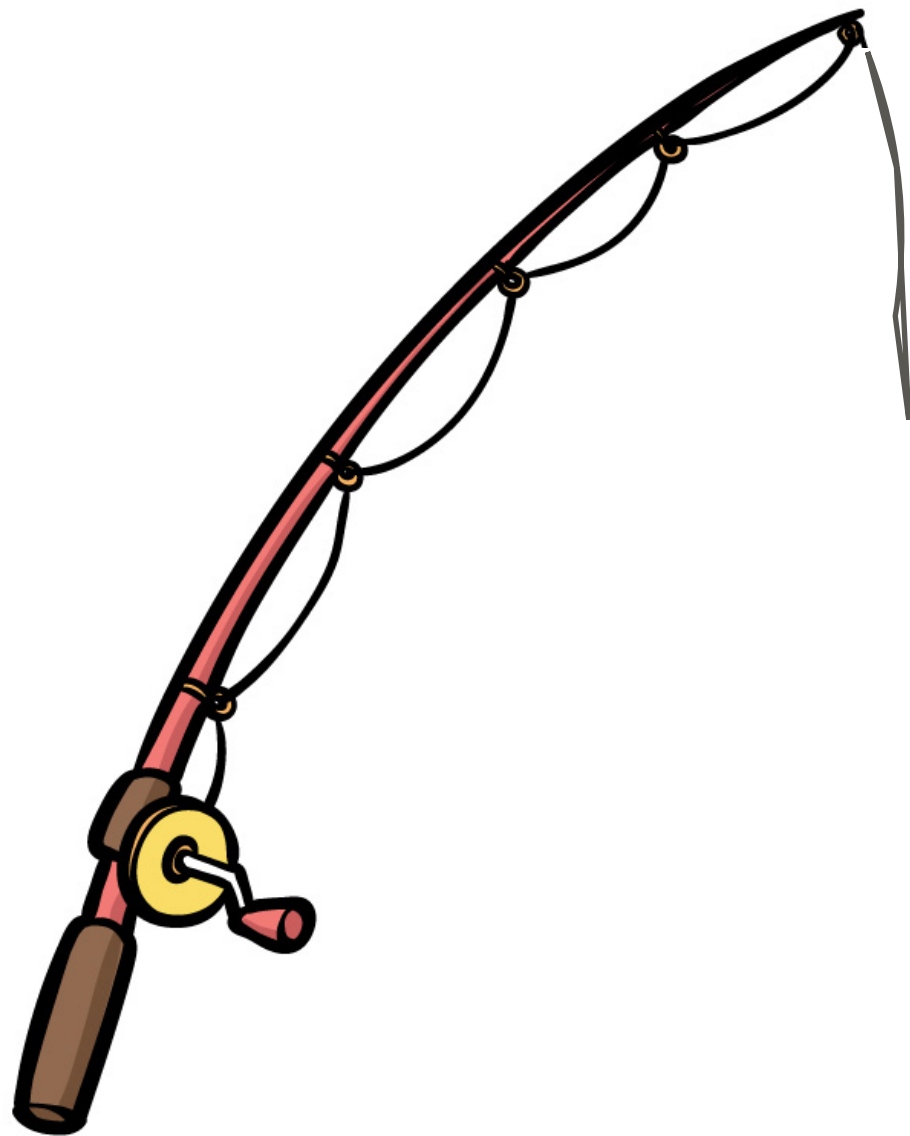
- Without a reflective surface, the horn sound is diffused and difficult to tune

CORRECTION:
PLACE HORN PLAYERS AGAINST
AN ACOUSTIC SHELL OR HARD SURFACE





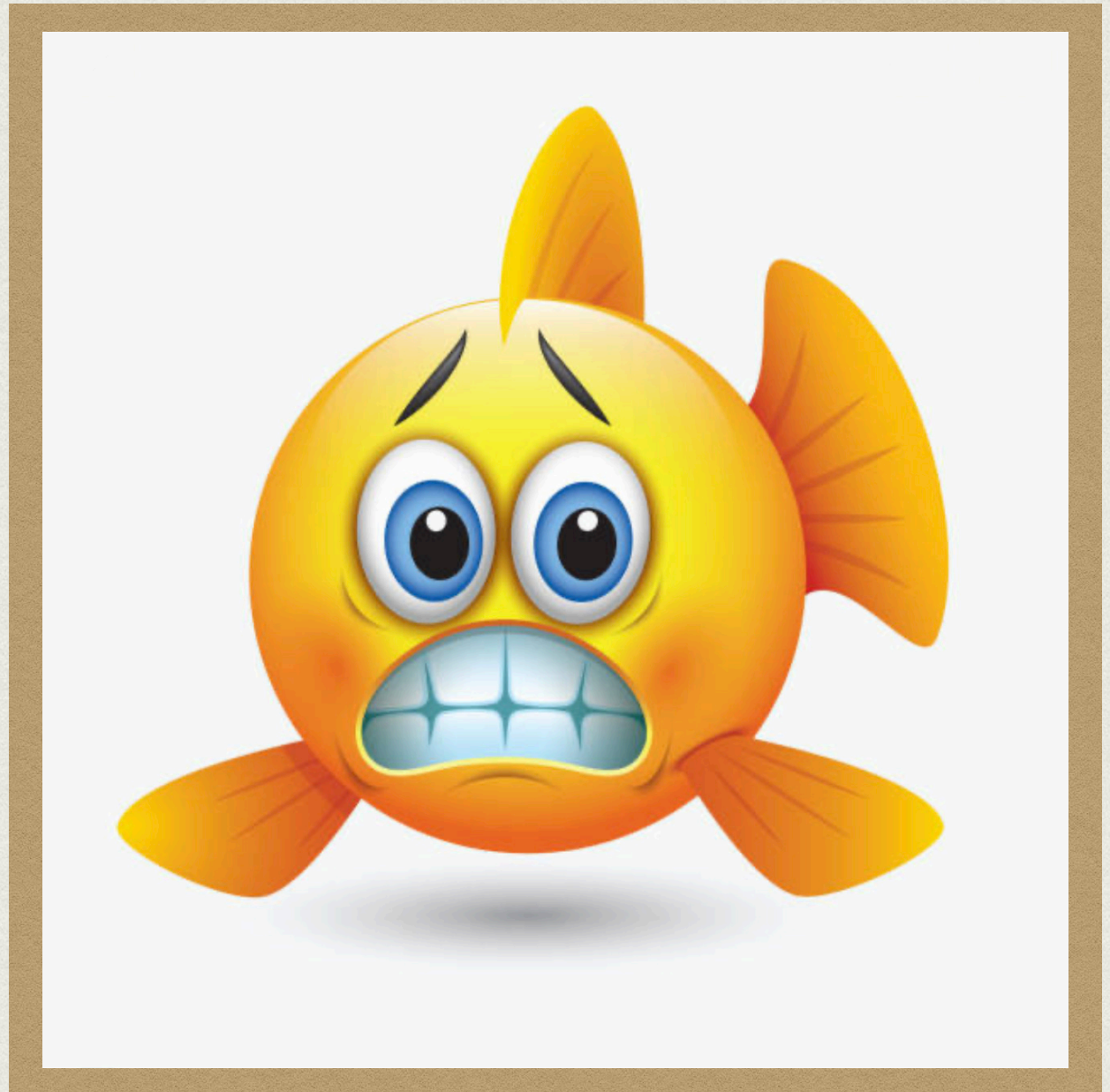
GREEN FISH WINNER!



UPTIGHT
PLAYING

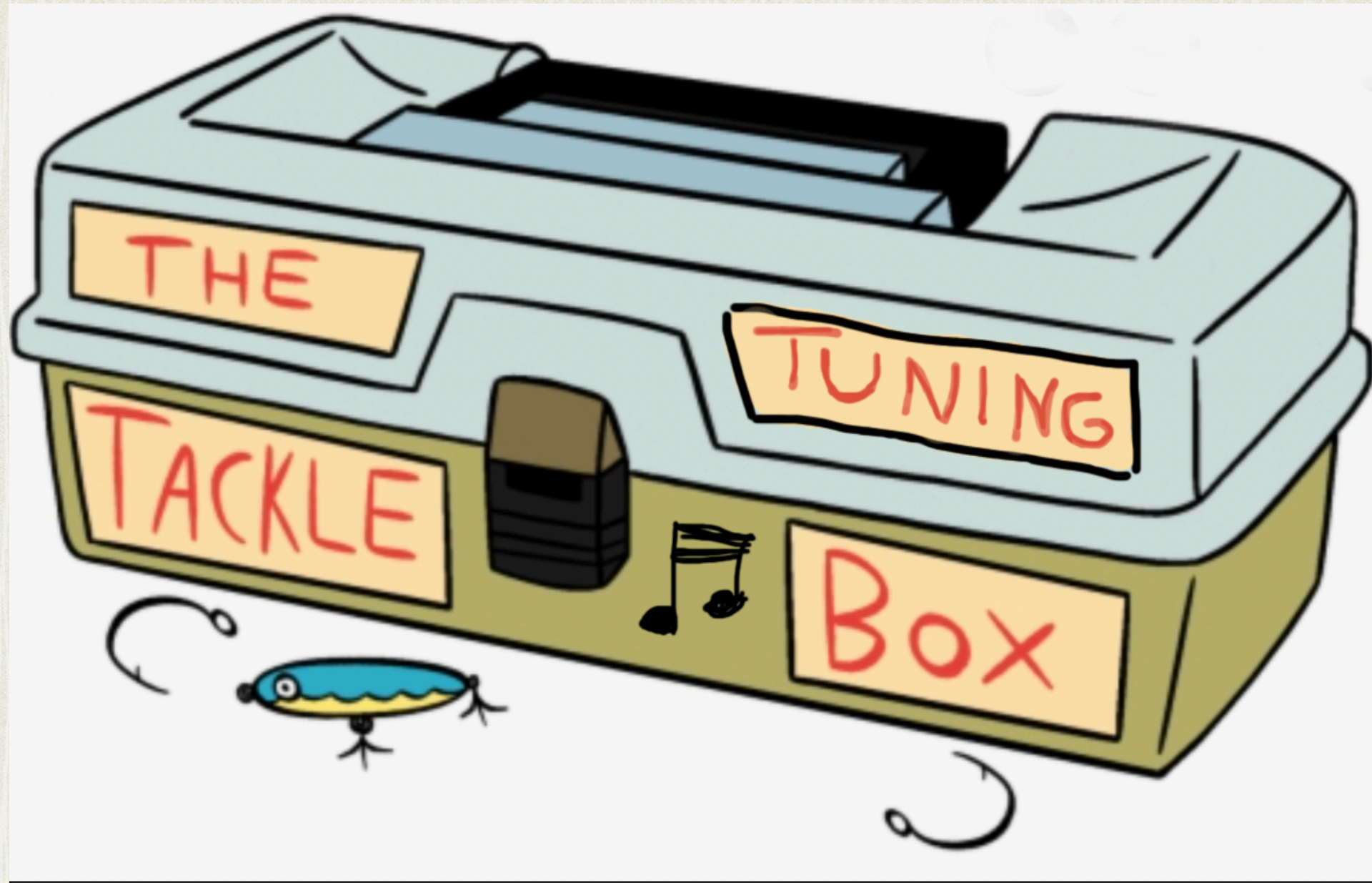
FEAR OF FAILURE

- Stressed students = out of tune playing
- **CORRECTION:** prioritize a growth mindset



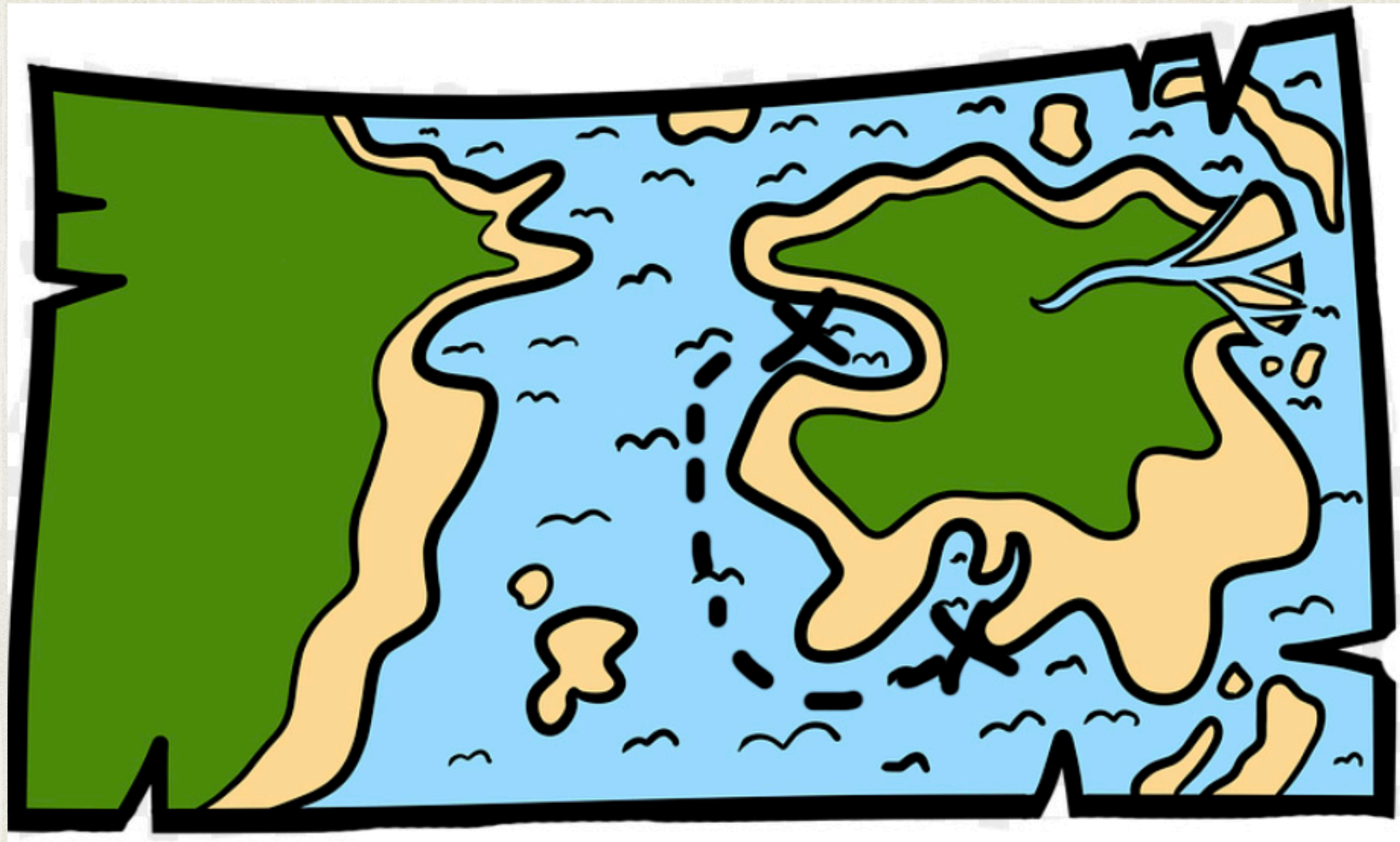
"Actually you never eyeball a horn player.
That's one of the real rules. You just don't.
They're stuntmen. You don't eyeball stuntmen
just before they're about to go near death."

-Sir Simon Rattle (British conductor)



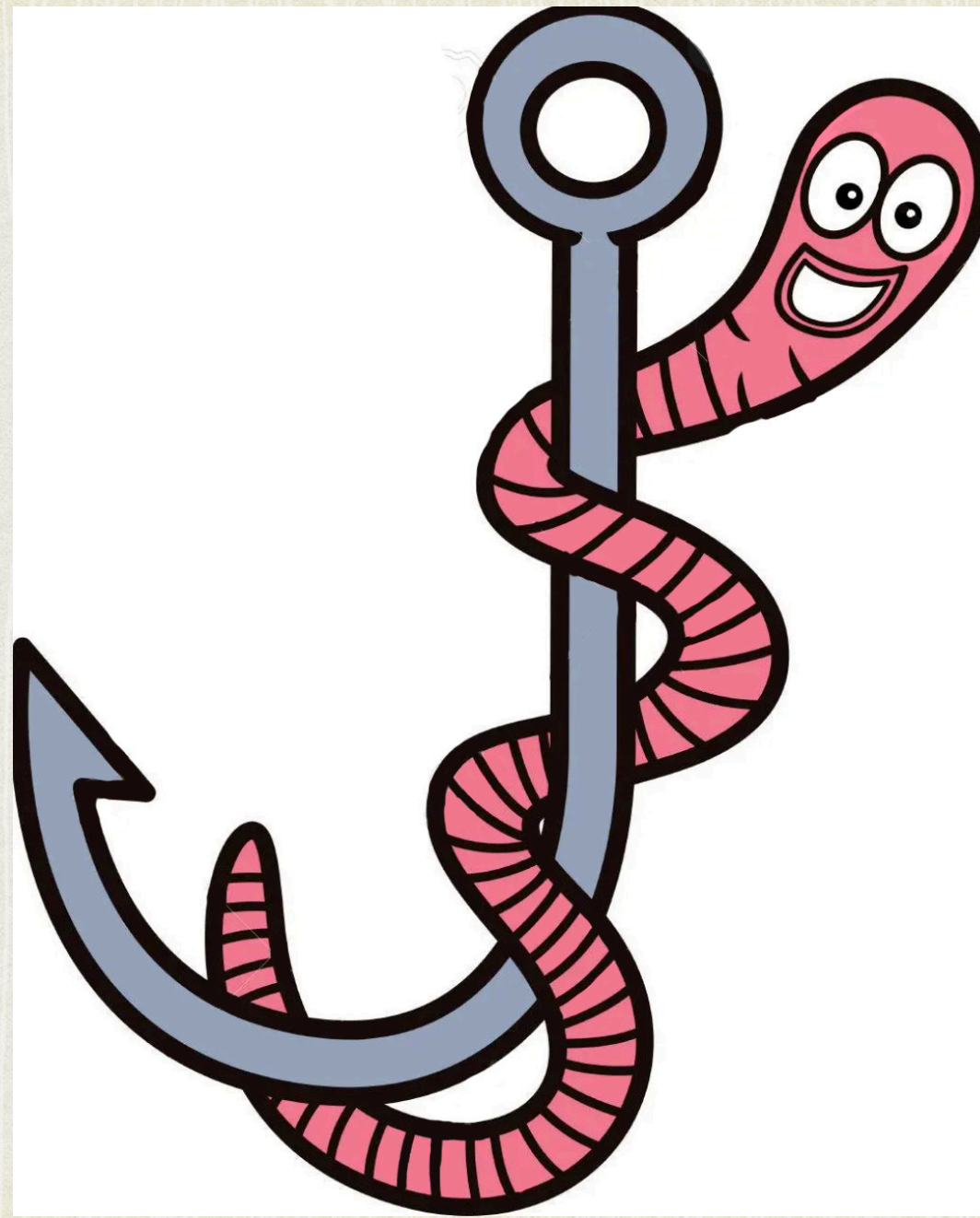
THE TUNING TACKLE BOX

The tools you need for a successful fishing experience



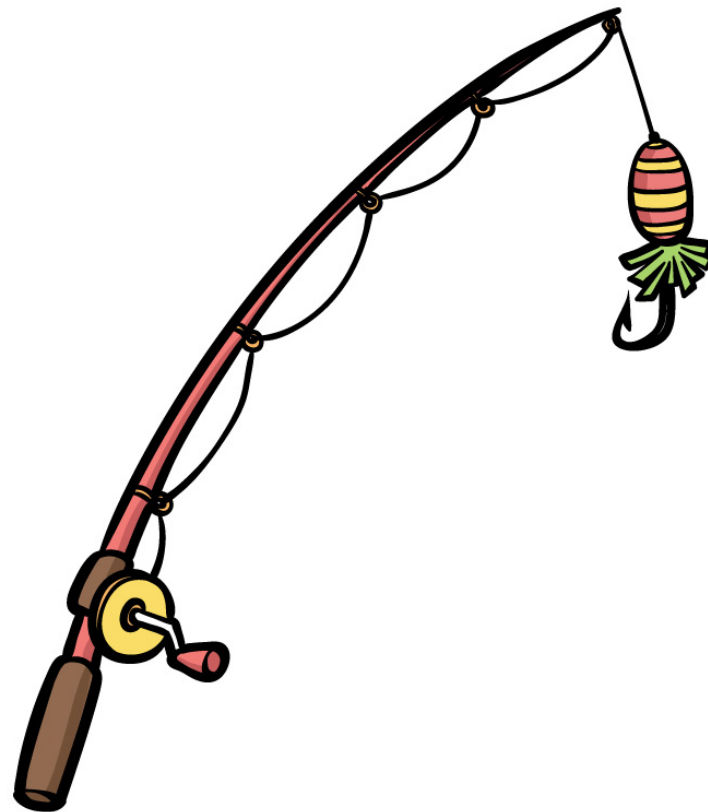
PATIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY

Be patient in the process. If the fish aren't biting, try something different.



CORRECT BAIT AND LURES

Provide knowledge to successfully “HOOK” your students



PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE

Use a tuner/drone regularly in sectionals



GOONE
FISHIN'



ORANGE FISH WINNER!



Come see us at the
Houghton Horns booth