



# Singing & Signing Resource Pack

I's the B'y

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# I's the B'y - Learning Guide

**Range:** An Octave (8 notes D to D)

**Parts:** 1

**You should always read the Singing and Signing Resources Guide in your downloaded resource pack before you start teaching this song to your group. It's important that as the leader you learn the signs first, especially if you're new to signing.**

## Context

I's the b'y is a traditional fishing song / folksong from Newfoundland - a small island off the east coast of Canada. 'I's the b'y' literally means 'I am the boy' or 'I am the guy'.

This is a fun song with a really simple catchy tune. Like a great many songs from Newfoundland, it was originally written as a dance. So we include lots of movement alongside the singing and signing making it a firm favourite with our groups. And we're sure you'll like it too!

The original song mentions the three Newfoundland harbours (Fogo, Twillingate and Moreton's Harbour), which are quite difficult to say and will need practising slowly to start with. To make it easier for some of our groups we change these for harbours closer to home. For example, because we're based in North Yorkshire, we often substitute Scarborough, Filey and Whitby for the Newfoundland harbours. Be creative and come up with your own local or favourite harbours. The sign sheet gives the words both the Newfoundland harbours and the Yorkshire harbours.

You can watch a full version of this song being performed by one of our leaders [here](#). We've also created [a teaching video of the full song](#) for you to use alongside this resource pack.

## Structure

1. There's an 8-bar introduction to this piece. Start singing when you hear the tambourine playing. During the introduction we bend at the knee and bounce in time to the music.
2. The song has a verse – chorus structure and we sing it through twice.
  - Verse 1
  - Chorus
  - Verse 2
  - Chorus


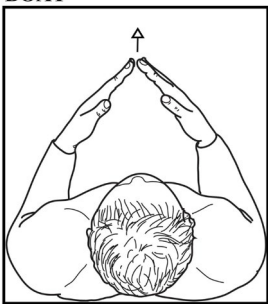







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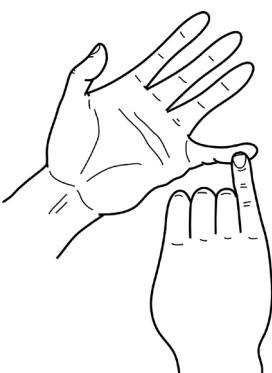
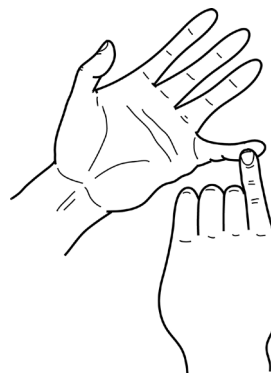
### Structure continued

3. There is no gap between the verse and the chorus.
4. After each chorus there is an 8-bar instrumental.
5. We finish by dancing for the last two choruses. Watch out because the final time through it speeds before slowing down for a big finish - we curtsey or bow to each other in our pairs.

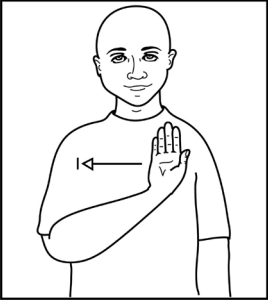

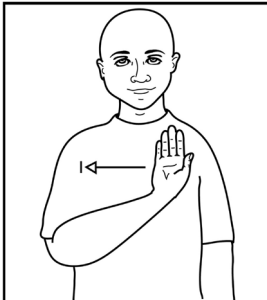

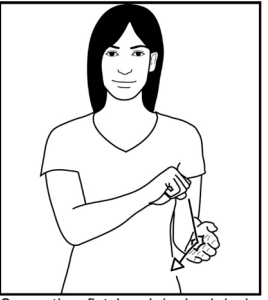
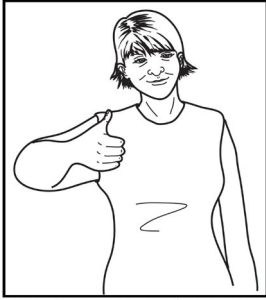

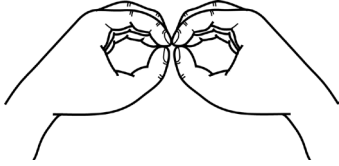
## I's the B'y - Sign Sheet (Verse 1)

<b>I / ME</b>  Working index hand points back to chest.	<b>BOAT</b>  Flat hands (palms in/back, pointing forward/in) with fingertips touching move forwards.	<b>I / ME</b>  Working index hand points back to chest.	<b>TO SAIL</b>  Working cupped hand (palm forward, pointing up) arcs forwards around supporting flat hand (palm down, pointing in) finishing palm back.
<u>I's</u> the b'y that	builds the <u>boat</u>	and <u>I's</u> the b'y	that <u>sails</u> her.
<b>I / ME</b>  Working index hand points back to chest.	<b>MIME DRAGGING FISHING NETS IN</b>	<b>HOUSE</b>  Flat hands (palms in/down, pointing in/up) with fingertips touching move apart and down to show roof.	
<u>I's</u> the b'y that	<u>catches the fish</u>	and brings 'em <u>home</u>	to <u>Liza</u>

## Chorus

<b>BUMP HIPS WITH PERSON ON ONE SIDE</b>		<b>BUMP HIPS WITH PERSON ON OTHER SIDE</b>	
<u>Hip your partner</u>	<u>Sally</u> Tibbo	<u>Hip your partner</u>	<u>Sally</u> Brown
<b>POINT TO ONE CORNER OF THER ROOM FOR FIRST HARBOUR, THE MIDDLE FOR THE SECOND AND THE FAR CORNER TO REPRESENT THE THIRD HARBOUR</b>			<b>MAKE CIRCLE WITH INDEX FINGER TO FRONT OF BODY</b>

## I's the B'y - Sign Sheet (Verse 2)

<p><b>NO</b></p>  <p>Working flat hand (palm forward, pointing up) moves sharply to working side.</p>	<p><b>WORM</b></p>  <p>Working index hand (palm down, pointing forward) finger flexes while hand moves forwards.</p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>  <p>Working flat hand (palm forward, pointing up) moves sharply to working side.</p>	<p><b>WINTER</b></p>  <p>Fists (palms in, pointing forward) held in front of the body make two small movements in towards each other.</p>
I <u>don't</u> want yer	maggoty <u>fish</u>	it's no <u>good</u>	for <u>winter</u>
<p><b>TO BUY</b></p>  <p>Supporting flat hand (palm in/up); working fist moves down striking supporting palm.</p>	<p><b>GOOD</b></p>  <p>Working thumb hand (palm back, pointing in) held up in front of body. Directional sign.</p>	<p><b>DOWN</b></p>  <p>Working index hand (palm back, pointing down) moves downwards.</p>	
I could <u>buy</u>	as <u>good</u> as that	<u>down</u> in	<u>Bonavista</u>

## Chorus