

# How To Play The Recorder

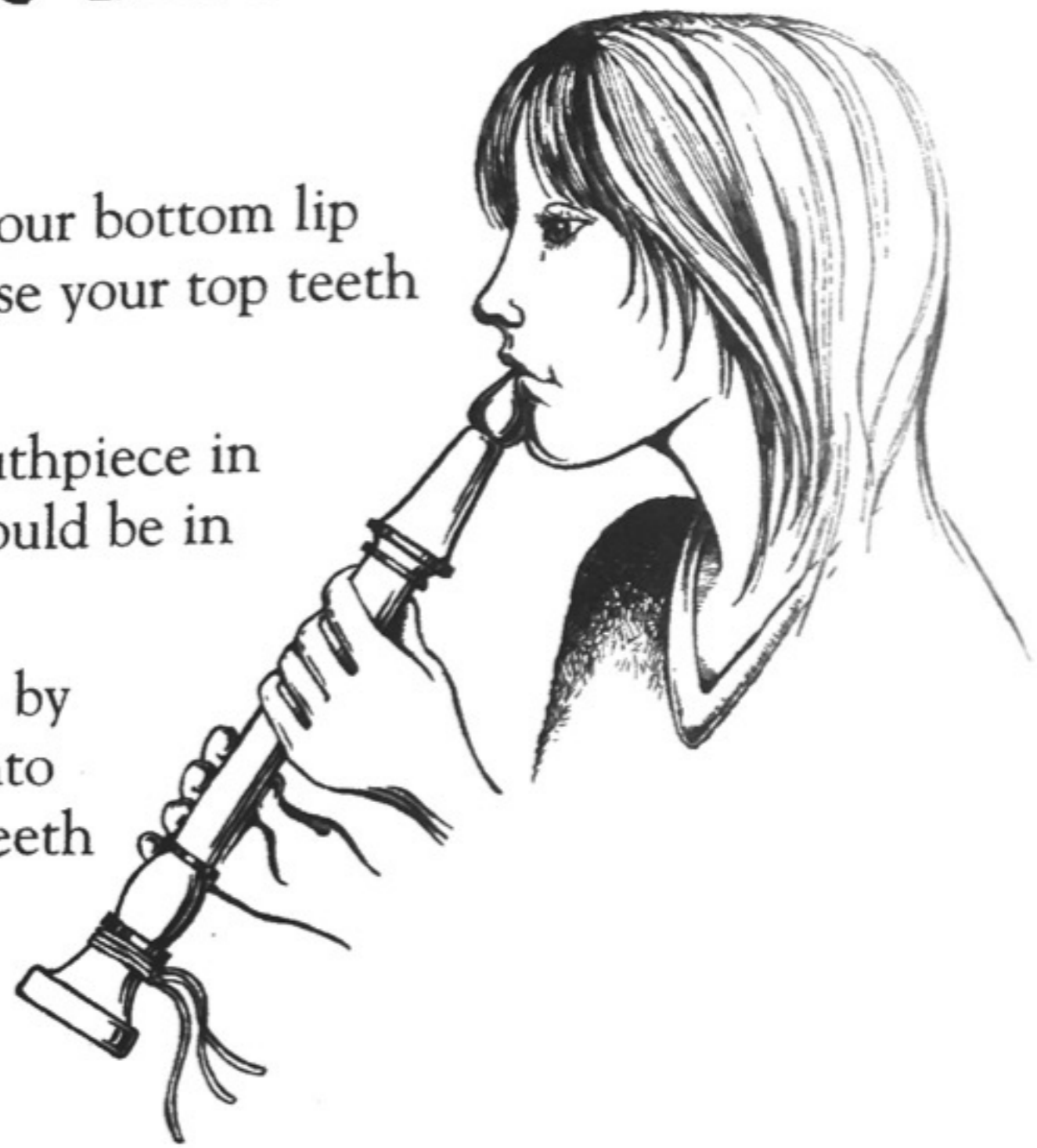
## How To Place The Recorder In Your Mouth

- Place the mouthpiece of the recorder on your bottom lip and in front of your bottom teeth. Do NOT close your top teeth down on to the mouthpiece.

- Make sure not to put too much of the mouthpiece in your mouth. Only the tip of the mouthpiece should be in your mouth.

- Press down very gently with your upper lip by whispering “mmm.” This will put your mouth into the correct position. Be careful not to let your teeth or your tongue touch the mouthpiece.

- Make sure that your lips stay firm around the mouthpiece. Don't open and close your mouth on each note. This will avoid air leaks.



## Breath/Air Pressure

- Blow softly but with a steady air stream. Little air is required. Blowing too hard produces an obnoxious noise.

## Use The “Steamy Window Trick”

- Blow on your hand as if you are steaming up the car window without someone near you hearing. (You don't want them to hear you blow.) The air should be warm and should not be heard. Blow this same way into your recorder.

- As you blow into the recorder, start the breath by whispering “tu.” This is called “tonguing” and your teacher will explain more about this in the future.

## Two Main Causes For Squeaks

- If you squeak, you may be blowing too hard. Try to blow with a very steady air stream.

- Another common reason for squeaks is that your fingers may not be covering the holes completely. Remember: **Leaks Cause Squeaks**. Keep trying!

## Practice Directions:

1. Clap and count the rhythm (use 1-2-3-4 or rhythm syllables such as “ta” and “ti-ti”).
2. Clap and speak the letter names in rhythm.
3. Finger the notes and speak or sing the letter names in rhythm.
4. Play the notes in rhythm. Start slow and increase in speed later.