

Piano Lessons

Susie loved to hear her older sister, Emma, play piano. Listening to the pretty notes and watching Emma's fingers press the keys made Susie want to play music too. But every time Susie asked to play, her mother would tell her how much work it was to learn to play piano well. Emma made it look easy. Susie was sure she could learn to play even though she was a few years younger, so she decided she had to prove to her mother that she was ready for the responsibility. Susie helped her mom around the house by washing the dishes and dusting.

"Mom, can I start taking piano lessons?" Susie asked.

"Susie, as long as you understand that you are going to have to practice every day, you can take piano lessons," her mom said.

Susie was so excited. She could not wait to play "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," one of her favorite songs. In no time, she thought, she would play as well as Emma!

Susie was excited and nervous for her first piano lesson. When she finally got there, she was surprised; her teacher had flashcards and a book for her. Emma just had music notes in her piano books. Susie did not know there were so many other things to know about the piano first. She had to learn each of the notes, or the sounds, that the piano makes. Then, she had to learn which key on the piano made each note. There were even Italian words she had to learn! Her teacher showed her everything she had to practice and learn before the next lesson. During that first lesson, Susie never even got to touch a key on the piano.

"Don't people get to play piano at piano lessons?" she wondered.

The next day, when Susie got home from school, her mom had her snack all ready. She ate it fast and started to run outside.

"Where are you going?" her mom asked.

"Outside to play kickball," Susie said. "Bye mom!"

"Not so fast, you must study your piano flashcards," her mom said. "Then, you can play."

"But mom, *everyone* is playing kickball," Susie whined.

"Susie, this is what you wanted, now you have to follow through with it," her mom said.

- 1.) How did Susie show her mom that she was responsible enough for piano lessons?
 - A. She told her mom she was responsible.
 - B. She helped her mom with chores around the house.
 - C. She tried to learn to play the piano by watching her sister.
 - D. She asked Emma to tell mom that she was responsible.

0%

100%

Confident

Confident

2.) The word *responsible* means

- A. Confused and unsure.
- B. Sad and unhappy.
- C. Dependable and hardworking.
- D. Patient and kind.

0% _____ 100%

Confident _____ Confident

3.) What is the main idea of this story?

- A. Susie learns that she must work hard to learn to play piano.
- B. Susie is jealous of her sister because she plays piano well.
- C. Susie earns money to take piano lessons.
- D. Emma helps Susie learn piano.

0% _____ 100%

Confident _____ Confident

4.) Why was Susie surprised after her first piano lesson?

- A. Her lesson was very long.
- B. She did not touch a piano.
- C. She could play many songs.
- D. She had the same teacher as Emma.

0% _____ 100%

Confident _____ Confident

5.) Why did Susie's mom sound stern when Susie told her she was going out to play?

- A. Susie's mom was mad at Emma.
- B. Susie was late for her next piano lesson.
- C. Susie needed to study her piano before playing.
- D. She wanted Susie to help with the dishes.

0% _____ 100%

Confident _____ Confident

On a scale between 1 and 10 with 1 being low and 10 being how well did you like this passage?

Didn't												I Really
Like It	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		Liked It
At All												

Predictions: What do you think happens after Susie's mom tells her that she can't play? Write a paragraph that tells the end of the story.