



Orientation

Ensure that you have read about using the plan in the Program Guide.

Book summary

Read the following summary to the student.

Someone is out there listening. Every time Cristina plays her harmonica by the open window, a note appears under the front door. Who is the mysterious note writer? Cristina is determined to find out.

Introduction

Foster interest and activate the student's background knowledge. Be concise – focus on motivating and involving the student. Encourage prediction by using the text and illustrations on the cover of the book. Discuss new vocabulary and remind the student to use the glossary (when applicable). Also remind the student to ask him/herself questions before, during and after the reading.

Ask the student to identify the words or phrases in the blurb that convey a sense of mystery. Ask them to find clues in the pictures on the cover or the title page that might explain who the note writer is and why they are writing notes. Encourage the student to look for clues in the text and the illustrations as they read the story.

Conferencing

Check how well the student reads

When you are conferencing, the student reads all or part of the book to you. Then:

- praise, pause, and prompt appropriately;
- check for accuracy (by counting mistakes) and fluency;
- check for understanding by using one or more of the following methods:
 - asking the comprehension questions provided and any others that seem necessary;
 - asking the student to retell the story in their own words;
 - asking questions about and discussing aspects of the story, such as the theme, plot, main ideas, sequence and characters;
 - encouraging the student to confirm the predictions they made during the orientation.

Decide what the student does next

Next recommend that the student:

- practices some more on the same book, with or without the audio;
- completes one of the activities provided that is related to the book;
- practices with another book from the same level; or
- is assessed for promotion to the next level.

Comprehension questions

1. What clues did Cristina use to solve the mystery?
2. What words or phrases in the story create a sense of mystery?
3. How does Cristina feel about her new apartment at the beginning of the story, and how do you think she is feeling at the end? Why?
4. Why do you think Nico used notes instead of talking to Cristina?
5. What do you think will happen next?

Answers to the Comprehension questions

1. Accept any of the following: the open window opposite; the layout of the apartment buildings; Nico's hair.
2. Answers will vary but may include: the scrawled message; the mysterious listener; vanished into the darkness; solving the mystery; she was on a mission; caught a glimpse; something about the boy reminded her; marked with an X.
3. At the beginning, she felt unhappy because she was tired of moving. At the end, she was happy because she was appreciated.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.

Supporting English Language Learners

The following are suggestions for optional lessons to take with your English language learners. See the overview chart in the Program Guide for a summary of the text features of this book.

Purpose

Understanding the function of metaphors

Introduce the concept and practice

Understanding the function of metaphors will help the student to interact with texts at a deeper level.

When the student has read the book, help them to find the metaphors “she lost herself in the melodies” and “a river of music flowed from the instrument” on page 3. Explain that a metaphor is a figure of speech that helps the reader create mental pictures by making comparisons. Talk about the picture that “she lost herself in the melodies” creates in your mind. Ask the student to describe the picture that “a river of music flowed from the instrument” creates in their mind. Ask them to draw this picture. Together, brainstorm other metaphors that could be used to describe music, such as “her lips danced across the harmonica” or “the tunes were a friendship maker.”





Name: Date:

Introduction: Someone is out there listening. Every time Cristina plays her harmonica by the open window, a note appears under the front door. Who is the mysterious note writer? Cristina is determined to find out.

Errors M S

Cristina sat beside the open window. She'd moved to new _____ so many times she'd _____ count, and the view _____ always the same – more apartment _____. They looked just like _____ one she'd moved from _____ just like the one _____ was in. From her _____, Cristina pulled out a harmonica. _____ grandfather had given it _____ her and taught her _____ chords and techniques. Now _____ he was dead, Cristina _____ his harmonica more than _____. She spent hours listening _____ music, playing along and _____ her own interpretations to _____ music. Cristina put the _____ to her mouth and _____ and exhaled, making music _____ rose and fell in _____ and intensity. Her hands _____ and closed, and she _____ her surroundings as she _____ herself in the melodies. _____ next morning, a piece of paper had been pushed under the front door.

Accuracy Chart (Exact word replacement only)		
Words Entered	Score	Level
More than 11 correct		Independent
10 or 11 correct		Instructional
Fewer than 10 correct		Frustration

Errors
M = Meaning (makes sense) ____ **S** = Syntax (sounds right) ____
 Heard Seen Unseen
 Comments:



Cristina sat beside the open window, playing her harmonica. Her grandfather had given it to her and taught her some chords and techniques. Now that he was dead, Cristina treasured his harmonica more than ever. The next morning, a piece of paper had been pushed under the front door.

Cristina’s mother read the scrawled message: “My son and I enjoyed the harmonica playing. Please play some more.” Cristina shrugged, but she felt a rush of pleasure. Someone liked her sound. She guessed it was one of the neighbors. She pulled out her harmonica and began to play. There was a thump through the walls, and a muffled “Be quiet!”

Cristina’s mother smiled and said, “The note didn’t come from there.” During the following week, the messages kept arriving. Cristina noticed it was only when she played at the open window that a message would arrive. Sometimes, there were requests for particular songs. If she were unfamiliar with the songs requested, Cristina would enjoy searching for the scores and learning them.

Her repertoire was increasing rapidly, and she looked forward more than usual to playing. Cristina’s curiosity grew, and she decided to play, then wait by the door. As she’d hoped, a message was pushed through the gap. Cristina pulled the door open and saw a young boy run down the stairs and toward the apartment building opposite.

Several days later, she caught a glimpse of a boy and a man in a wheelchair in the apartment building opposite. Something about the boy reminded her of the boy on the stairs. Cristina worked out which apartment the boy lived in, then she and her mother walked over to the apartment. The boy opened the door. Cristina held up her harmonica.

“I’ve come by to say thank you for the notes,” she said. The boy’s father asked her to play for him. “Your playing makes my day,” he said. As she played, another idea took shape. She gave the man a harmonica and offered to teach him the basics. When he blew into the harmonica, it made an airy, raspy sound, and Cristina said, “That’s what I used to sound like.”





Name: Date:

Words can be found in these directions:



The letter in each square can only be used in one word.

m	m	y	s	t	e	r	y	d	o	o	r	f	w	i	s
o	m	e	s	s	a	g	e	l	i	k	e	o	a	d	u
v	m	w	h	e	e	l	c	h	a	i	r	l	s	e	r
e	b	o	w	a	p	h	a	m	a	n	y	l	i	n	r
m	u	b	r	e	c	l	e	l	m	i	t	o	n	t	o
e	i	p	e	n	e	r	e	r	o	t	h	w	c	i	u
n	l	o	q	n	i	k	e	a	s	n	e	i	l	c	n
t	d	c	u	t	e	n	l	m	s	e	g	n	u	a	d
t	i	k	i	h	a	a	g	i	e	u	l	g	d	l	i
h	n	e	e	a	e	u	t	b	s	m	r	f	i	a	n
o	g	t	t	r	i	r	g	h	o	t	b	e	n	w	g
u	p	e	r	h	a	p	s	h	h	t	e	e	g	a	s
g	n	g	l	i	m	p	s	e	t	o	t	n	r	y	t
h	l	a	u	g	h	e	d	f	e	l	l	o	i	e	o
t	h	a	d	s	e	a	r	c	h	i	n	g	m	n	d
w	i	n	d	o	w	a	p	a	r	t	m	e	n	t	g

Words to find:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| along | following | laughed | perhaps | the |
| apartment | glimpse | like | pleasure | thought |
| away | had | listening | pocket | to |
| beneath | her | many | quiet | was |
| bottom | herself | message | remembered | week |
| building | identical | morning | searching | wheelchair |
| door | including | movement | surroundings | window |
| fell | it | mystery | taught | |

Use the letters that are left to make the word that tells what Cristina's grandfather had given her.....





- ★ Spin the numbered spinner.
- ★ The highest number starts.
- ★ You need to spin the exact number to move onto the END square.

START
Your grandfather taught you some harmonica chords and techniques.

1

2 You play your harmonica by the open window. Spin again. If you spin a 4 or 5, go on to 6.

3

19

20

21

22 You see a boy on the stairs. He runs toward the apartment building opposite. Go back 3 spaces.

4

18 You play your harmonica and wait by the door. Miss a turn.

END
You buy a harmonica for Mr. Rivera and teach him the basics.

23

5 A note is pushed under the door. Spin again. If you spin a 4 or 5, go on to 6.

17

30

24 You glimpse a boy and a man in a wheelchair. Name 2 numbers. If you spin one of them, go on to 27.

6

16

29

25

7

15 Your repertoire is increasing, and you look forward more than usual to playing. Go forward 4 spaces.

28

27

26 You and your mother visit the boy. His father, Mr. Rivera, tells you that your playing makes his day. Go on to 30.

8

14 More messages arrive, some with requests. Spin again. Go forward that number.

13

12

11

10 There is a thump through the wall and a muffled "Be quiet!" Spin again. Go back that number.

9





Name: Date:

Readers use their knowledge of other stories, people, their experiences, and the text to guess what characters are feeling. This is called making inferences. Complete the following table by describing what the passages from the story remind you of.

Passage from the story	Reminds me of:
She'd moved to new apartments so many times she'd lost count. (page 2)	
Now that he was dead, Cristina treasured his harmonica more than ever. (page 2)	
She was disappointed if a note wasn't pushed under her door. (page 5)	
Cristina's curiosity grew. (page 5)	
... all Cristina could think about was solving the mystery. (page 7)	
Cristina devised a plan. (page 8)	
"For you," she said to Mr. Rivera. (page 12)	

Write on the back of this page if you need more space.



Guess how Cristina might be feeling or what she might be thinking. Use your guesses to remind you of a time when you, someone you know, or a character from another story felt the same way.

