



Orientation

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

Book summary

Read the following summary to the student.

I'm standing in the spotlight with a check for \$1000 in one hand and a trophy in the other. It all began with my baby sister, a storm, and my neighbor, Wes ...

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.

Help the student to predict what the story might be about, using key words or phrases in the blurb (standing in the spotlight, a check, a trophy), the title, and the cover illustrations. Where do you find spotlights? When are people given a trophy? What might the narrator have done? How might his baby sister, the storm, and his neighbor fit into the story? Encourage the student to keep their predictions in mind 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. Why did Jake compose “Storm Song”?
2. How did the author begin and end the story?
3. How did Jake feel about Tina when she was a new baby? What evidence is there for this in the story?
4. How did your predictions help you to understand the story?
5. How does the story make you feel? Why?

Answers to the Comprehension questions

1. To keep Tina quiet during the storm that overturned their trailer.
2. She made the awards ceremony the setting for both the beginning and end of the story.
3. Answers will vary but may include: that he felt indifferent to her, which is shown where he says “I tried to pretend Tina wasn't there.”
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

Using appropriate stress and intonation

Introduce the concept and practice

Correct use of intonation (the way our voices rise and fall as we speak) and stress (the degree of force with which a syllable is spoken) will enhance the student's spoken English.

When the student is familiar with the book, together listen to the first page being read on the audio. Ask them to listen for stress and intonation. Ask the student to read the first page aloud, and give them feedback on their expression. Listen to the audio again if necessary. State clearly what the student needs to work on and why it is important – many learners will be unaware of the importance of appropriate expression in spoken English. Repeat this exercise for the remainder of the book. When the student feels confident, encourage them to read the book aloud to the class.





Name: Date:

Introduction: I'm standing in the spotlight with a check for \$1000 in one hand and a trophy in the other. It all began with my baby sister, a storm, and my neighbor, Wes ...

Errors
M S

Tonight I won a music award. It was similar to _____
 you see on TV _____ there was a sealed
 _____ and a trophy and _____ appeared
 onstage. The trophy _____ gold-plated, and the
 envelope _____ a check for \$1000. Mom cried
 all _____ Dad's best shirt, Wes _____ Elise
 from the trailer _____ door whistled and clapped
 _____ crazy, and Tina, my _____ sister, started
 yelling. I _____ stood there and grinned _____
 Tina was the reason _____ was onstage in the
 _____ place. It all began _____ Tina was born.
 "Jake, _____ have something important
 to _____ you," Mom said, and _____ sat down
 at the _____. Mom's one of those _____ who
 zips around like _____ supercharged robot, so when
 _____ sits down to talk, _____ know a serious
 discussion is about _____ happen.

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:





Tonight I won a music award. Mom cried all over Dad’s best shirt. Tina, my baby sister, started yelling. I just stood there and grinned because Tina was the reason I was onstage in the first place. When Mom had first told me she was going to have a baby, I’d asked, “Where will we put it?”

Our trailer was already cluttered, but we managed – almost. When it was raining and we were all confined to the trailer, life was a carnival. Tina yelled when she was hungry, yelled when she had gas, yelled when she needed a clean diaper, and yelled when she didn’t want to sleep.

Even my headphones didn’t block out the noise. There was one occasion when Mom was cooking. She thrust Tina into my arms because Tina wouldn’t stop yelling. “Do something, Jake!” she said. I began to object, but one look at the expression on Mom’s face convinced me I’d better not say anything.

I took Tina from Mom. There was no space to walk her. I thought maybe singing would help, so I sang Tina a song I’d seen on a music video. She kept right on screaming until I sang along to the jingles on TV. Tina fell asleep. I’d done it! After that, whenever I sang commercials, Tina would fall asleep.

Singing commercials wasn’t the reason I won the award though. I won it because of what happened during the storm. The wind had been screaming outside, and Tina had been screaming inside. The trailer shuddered and overturned, and then the lights failed. Tina went quiet. I heard Mom groan and then Tina began screaming.

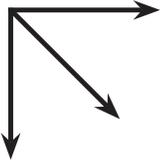
I wrapped Tina in a comforter and started to sing. I sang about storms and seasons. I composed it the instant I sang it. Tina stopped screaming, and Mom stopped groaning. I repeated the song until the ambulance arrived. Wes, from the trailer next door, helped me enter “Storm Song” in the Young Songwriter of the Year competition, which I won.





Name: Date:

Words can be found in these directions:



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

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

Words to find:

- | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|-----------|---------|
| ambulance | discussion | me | reason | there |
| around | expression | music | request | thought |
| back | fourteen | my | say | to |
| because | happened | myself | she | trailer |
| began | heard | occasion | someone | volume |
| commercials | in | one | sometimes | wanted |
| complete | kitchen | outside | space | what |
| desperation | looked | pretend | started | when |

Use the letters that are left to make the word that tells what Jake entered and won.....





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

START You've won a music award. Tina, your kid sister, is the reason you're onstage.	1	2	3 Your mom tells you she's having a baby, and you ask where you'll put it. Go back to 1.
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19 A twister makes the trailer overturn. Miss a turn.	20	21 You sing a song, making it up as you go along. Go forward 4 spaces.	22	4
18	END You win the award. The prize is a silver trophy and a check for \$1,000.		23	5
17	30		24 Tina stops crying, and your mom stops groaning. Spin again. Go forward that number.	6
16 Tina stops crying when you sing a jingle. Spin again. If you spin an even number, go on to 20.	29		25	7 It's raining, and you're all confined to the trailer. Spin again. Go back that number.
15	28	27	26 Wes, from the trailer next door, helps you to enter the Young Songwriter of the Year competition. Go on to 30.	8
14	13	12 Your mom thrusts Tina into your arms and says, "Do something!" Go back 4 spaces.	11	10
				9 Tina yells a lot. Name 2 numbers. If you spin one of them, go back to 5.





Name: Date:

“Rain bombarded the roof of our trailer like someone beating on bongos.” (page 8)

A simile is a comparison between two things using “like” or “as.” Authors use similes to make their writing more interesting. Complete the following sentences to write other similes that could be included in the story.

- The twister was as loud as
- Tina screamed like
- I missed Dad as much as
- Mom was as frustrated as
- The trailer looked like
- Mom’s voice was as strange as
- I sang like
- Standing on stage, I felt like

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



Make sure your sentences relate to the characters, the plot, and the setting in the story.

