

# The Big Night

by Katie Clark

Gretchen took a deep, shaky breath as she peeked out from behind the stage curtain. The auditorium was full. Everyone was there to hear the piano recital.



Gretchen wiped her sweaty hands on her pants. She was a bur

What if she me  
forgot the correct no

Mr. Harold ste  
students who would

"Are you alrigh

"You'll do grea  
grinned at his own s  
were literally music t

"What if I mak  
her anxiety.

Mr. Harold patted her snouider. "You can do it, Gretchen. I believe in you."

She nodded, and he moved on to give encouragement to the next student.

Gretchen moved toward the back of the stage to wait for her turn. She heard sniffles and frowned.

Peeking around the corner, she saw Matthew. He was only seven years old, but he played the piano like a maestro.

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Gretchen stepped toward him. "What's wrong, Matthew?"

He sniffed again and wiped his tears. "I'm scared."

A sympathetic smile spread across Gretchen's face. "I understand. I'm nervous, too. I know you'll knock it out of the park," she said.

As she said the words, she realized she meant them very much. Matthew always did a great job. She believed in him.

Maybe that was how Mr. Harold felt about her, too.

"Everyone will remember to smile. Your smile always lights up the room."

Matthew smiled. He was going to be a great recital.

Soon the curtains closed. Gretchen, including Matthew. He did fantastic.

When Gretchen finished, she felt her nerves. Then she played for the audience.

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# The Big Night

- 1) What was the "Big Night" about?
- a) Gretchen's experience of stage fright
  - b) Gretchen's boosting Matthew's self-confidence
  - c) a wonderful musical evening by Mr. Harold's students
  - d) how Gretchen overcomes her stage fright to give a great piano recital

- 2) What does the phrase "to be a star" mean?

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- 3) How does Gretchen

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- 4) Which sentence

- a) At the piano
- b) Gretchen recited the piano extraordinarily well.

- 5) If something is music to your ears, it makes you feel very happy. This is a metaphor. Find another literary device used in the text.

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  - c) a wonderful musical evening by Mr. Harold's students
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2) What does the phrase "A bundle of nerves" mean?

**"A bundle of nerves"**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) How does Gretchen feel?

**She first experiences**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**She reminds Matthew**

**and assures him**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4) Which sentence is true?

a) At the piano

b) Gretchen recited the piano extraordinarily well.

5) If something is music to your ears, it makes you feel very happy. This is a metaphor. Find another literary device used in the text.

**Your smile always lights up the room. This is an implied metaphor.**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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