

The Big Night

by Katie Clark

Underline the metaphors in the story.

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 dress. She was a bundle of nerves.

What if she messed up? What if the whole night was ruined?

Mr. Harold stepped forward to greet the students who would be performing.

"Are you alright, Gretchen?"

She gulped. "I think so."

"You'll do great," Mr. Harold grinned at his own student. "It's literally music to people's ears."

"What if I make a mistake? It will ruin everything," she said. It was hard to admit her anxiety.

Mr. Harold patted her shoulder. "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 snuffles and frowned.

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

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 b

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