

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 that it took hard work 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 to show 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 take piano lessons?” Susie asked.

“Susie, as long as you know that you 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. Susie did not know there were so many other things to learn about the piano before you could begin to play it. 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 needed to 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. Susie 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.

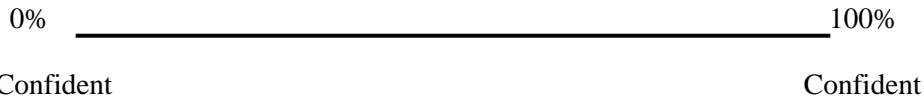
“Susie, this is what you wanted; you have to do your work first,” her mom said sternly.

- 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.

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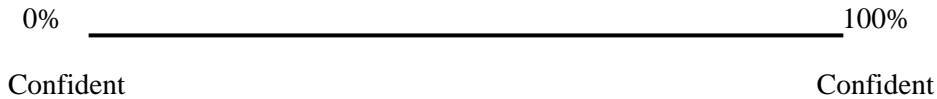
2.) The word *responsible* means

- a. Confused and unsure.
- b. Sad and unhappy.
- c. Dependable and hardworking.
- d. Patient and kind.



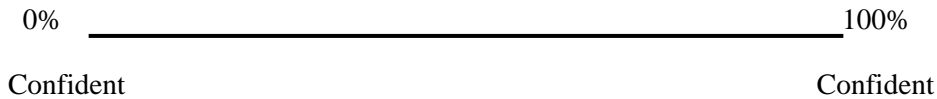
3.) What is the main idea of this story?

- 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.



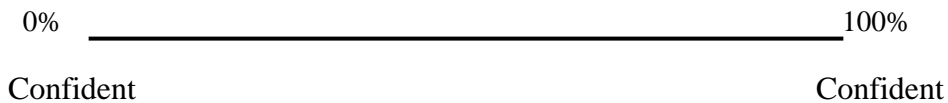
4.) Why was Susie surprised after her first piano lesson?

- a. Her lesson was very long.
- b. She did not get to play the piano.
- c. She could play many songs.
- d. She had the same teacher as Emma.

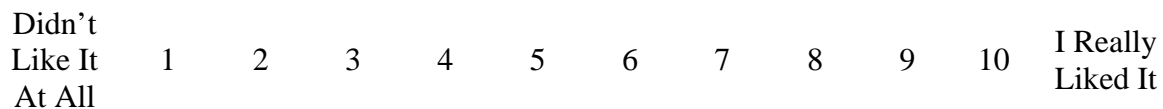


5.) Why did Susie’s mom sound stern when Susie told her she was going out to play?

- a. Susie’s mom was mad at Emma.
- b. Susie was late for her next piano lesson.
- c. Susie needed to study her piano lessons before playing.
- d. Susie’s mom wanted her to help with the dishes.



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



Connections: Write a paragraph about what it means to be responsible. How do you show that you are a responsible person?