Read the short story and answer each question.



The Talent Show Trouble

Lena and Kai had been best friends since kindergarten. Now they were planning to sing together at the school talent show.

"I want to sing a pop song!" Lena said, bouncing on her toes.

"Something fun with claps and dance moves!"

Kai looked uneasy. "I was thinking we could do a slow song. Something calm... with piano."

Lena wrinkled her nose. "That's boring."

Kai crossed his arms. "Well, I don't want to do something silly."

Lena sighed. "This was supposed to be fun."

"It was," Kai said, "until we stopped listening to each other."

The next day at recess, Lena sat beside Kai on the swings.

"I thought about what you said," she began. "What if we find a song that starts slow and ends fun?"

Kai smiled. "Like a mix of both our styles?"

"Exactly," said Lena. "Meet me after school to look for one?"

"You got it," Kai said. "Best friends and now... best duet."



The Talent Show Trouble

- 1. What song does Lena want to perform at first?
- A. A song with a slow piano
- B. A pop song with claps and dance moves
- C. A rap about school lunch
- D. A duet with no music

- 2. How does Kai feel about Lena's idea in the beginning?
- A. He loves the idea right away
- B. He is excited to try something new
- C. He thinks it's too silly
- D. He doesn't want to perform at all

3. Fill in the blank:
Kai wanted to sing a song with piano.
4. How are Lena's and Kai's points of view different at the beginning of the story?
5. What do they do to solve their disagreement by the end?

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: L Lexile Level: 355L-505L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"In today's story, we'll read about two friends who both want to perform in the school talent show, but they don't agree on how. We'll focus on how each character's words and tone show their different points of view. Try changing your voice as you read their dialogue to match how each character feels."

Vocabulary: talent, duet, piano, perform, disagreement

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever worked with a friend on something and had different ideas?
- 2. What does it mean to have a different point of view?
- 3. How can the way someone *speaks* show how they're feeling?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What does Lena want, and how does she sound when she says it?
- 2. How does Kai respond? What words or tone show how he feels?
- 3. When do they start to understand each other better?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. How do Lena and Kai solve their problem in a way that respects both their ideas?
- 2. Why is it helpful to understand how someone else sees a situation?
- 3. How did using different voices for each character help you understand their emotions?

Activity Idea

Have students rewrite the story as a short **script** for two voices. They'll perform it in partners, focusing on using tone and body language to reflect Lena's excitement and Kai's calm style. Afterward, discuss how voice and expression helped show the characters' points of view.

