

Gwen's Music

Clutching her music folder, Gwen hurried toward her piano teacher's house. She was nervous because she was going to play a new piece, a sonata she had picked out herself. If she played well, Ms. King would let her perform it in the recital. Unfortunately, Gwen was no longer certain she liked the music. Turning the corner, she saw an elderly man step off the curb. A car was racing toward him. "Stop!" she yelled, leaping forward and pulling the man to safety. Music sheets fluttered from her dropped folder and scattered everywhere. Gwen stooped to gather them up. "How can I repay you?" the man asked. Gwen just shook her head shyly. "A good deed should always be rewarded," he declared. "Tell me your heart's desire."

Gwen looked toward her instructor's house. "I wish I had a better piece to perform," she sighed wistfully, "but it's too late. Only Merlin the magician could change it now."

The man picked up a sheet of music from the pavement. "Don't forget this one," he said as he handed it to her. "You have a kind heart, and that is the sweetest music of all." Gwen tucked the sheet into her folder. Then, remembering that Ms. King had no patience for tardy students, she rushed down the street.

Later, at the piano, Gwen looked at her music in dismay. It was the sheet the man had given her, and it was completely unfamiliar. Ms. King signaled impatiently for Gwen to begin. Hesitantly at first, and then more confidently, Gwen's fingers moved over the keys. She played as if she had practiced the piece a hundred times. "That was beautiful!" Ms. King exclaimed. "It will be perfect in the recital."

Gwen looked more closely at the handwritten sheet of music. "For a Kind Heart," the title said. Then her eyes widened as she read the name of the composer: Merlin.

MONDAY

Write each word next to its definition.

- | composer | dismay | fluttered | recital | sonata | wistfully |
|----------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

TUESDAY

Circle the words that describe Gwen. Provide details from the story to support your answer.

impatient

shy

kind

cruel

proud

helpful

WEDNESDAY

Choose the correct answer.

1. Why does Gwen help the old man?

Ⓐ She thinks he is a famous composer.

Ⓒ She hopes he will give her a reward.

Ⓑ She is a kind person, and he needed help.

Ⓓ She thinks he will be angry if she doesn't.

2. Why does the man help Gwen?

Ⓐ She saved his life and didn't ask for a reward.

Ⓒ She paid him to write new music for her.

Ⓑ She is beautiful.

Ⓓ He thinks she is a princess.

3. Who is the man Gwen helps?

Ⓐ Gwen's long-lost grandfather

Ⓒ a magician named Merlin

Ⓑ a famous composer named Mr. Lin

Ⓓ Ms. King's husband

THURSDAY

Draw a line to identify each story element.

Main Character

• a street near a music teacher's house

Supporting Character

• She helps a magician, and he rewards her with beautiful new music.

Setting

• Gwen

Problem

• Ms. King

Solution

• Gwen isn't confident that she chose the right music for her recital.

FRIDAY

Why is Gwen able to play music she has never seen before?
