

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED**

Nikki sat nervously in her chair as she waited for her piano teacher to announce her name to the audience. This was her first piano recital, and her stomach was in knots. She was dreading this day, so unsure and hesitant of how she would play in front of an audience of people. Her biggest concern was that her fingers would fumble and play the wrong notes.

“Our next pianist will be Nikki Morgan.” Somehow Nikki stood and reluctantly walked across the slick, shiny wooden floor to the black baby grand piano. She sat down and shakingly placed her fingers on the keys.

Although her heart was beating a million miles a minute, her fingers seemed to have a mind of their own. They knew exactly where to go, and what notes to play. The music from the piano echoed and filled the auditorium. As she got more and more into the composition, Nikki’s spirits lifted and her confidence seemed to soar. She couldn’t believe that she was actually performing!

Before she knew it, her fingers hit the last chord and the song came to an end. Nikki stood to face the audience with a beaming smile on her face. She gave a gracious bow and received warm applause.

Nikki walked back across the slick, shiny wooden floor, and practically collapsed into her chair with relief. She let out a contented sigh. It felt incredible to have done so well and even better to have her first recital successfully completed!



1. Based on context clues, what does the word reluctantly mean as is it used in the passage?
- a. Questioning the purpose of

b. Doing with excitement

c. Without really wanting to

d. Refusing to go through with
2. Which piece of text evidence BEST helps the reader identify the definition of beaming?
- a. Nikki sat nervously in her chair as she waited for her piano teacher to announce her name to the audience.

b. It felt incredible to have done so well and even better to have her first recital successfully completed!

c. Her biggest concern was that her fingers would fumble and play the wrong notes.

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3. Which piece of text evidence BEST helps the reader identify the definition of contented?
- a. Nikki walked back across the slick, shiny wooden floor, and practically collapsed into her chair with relief.

b. They knew exactly where to go, and what notes to play.

c. She sat down and shakingly placed her fingers on the keys.

d. She couldn't believe that she was actually performing!
4. Which phrase from the text best shows that Nikki was nervous?
- a. ... her fingers seemed to have a mind of their own.

b. ... Nikki's spirits lifted and her confidence seemed to soar.

c. Although her heart was beating a million miles a minute...

d. She gave a gracious bow...
5. Read the following sentence from the passage: “As she got more and more into the composition, Nikki’s spirits lifted and her confidence seemed to soar.” Which of the following best describes what it means by “confidence seemed to soar”?
- a. Her confidence left as soon as she saw the audience.

b. Her confidence wasn't changed at all throughout the performance.

c. Her confidence was never an issue for her.

d. Her confidence grew once she started playing.
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## KEY

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