

The 150th Joint-True Light Writing Competition
Moral Education for Children Series

Dancing Music Notes

Synopsis

Playing the piano had always been Beth's favorite thing to do, but when a challenging song came along, Beth was agitated. It appeared that she did not know how to take a bigger step and go a little further. Ms Jo gave her some tips. Afterwards, what Beth found was something more than she had expected!

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🎵 Dancing Music Notes 🎵



Audio:



A vibrant illustration of a young girl named Beth with brown hair in pigtails, wearing a white school uniform with a blue skirt and a yellow star emblem. She is depicted in two positions: on the left, she is shown from the waist up, eyes closed with a serene expression, her hands hovering over a curved piano keyboard. On the right, she is shown from the waist down, her body swinging and her arms raised in a dance-like pose, as if she is moving across the keyboard. The background is a soft pink and purple gradient, filled with white musical notes and treble clefs. The piano keyboard is a large, curved structure that spans across the scene, with black and white keys clearly visible.

Beth liked playing the piano.
Every time she listened to
a piece of music, she closed
her eyes and wore a grin
on her face.

Her body swung from left to right,
and right to left,

again and again as if she was dancing
with herself. In the middle of the song,
she wriggled her fingers as if a
piano was right in front of her.



She loved learning how to play a new song.
Every note was like a little island in an ocean.
She was hopping from one island to another,
enjoying the journey where she explored a new note,
a new rhythm, a new chord.

Playing the piano
was always a joyful experience.
The 10 fingers of hers
were like 10 little birdies.
They always got to the right keys
on the piano,
at the right beat and at the right time,
and at the right **synchrony**.





Of course, the more she practiced the piano,
the more challenging the pieces became.
It was a piece by Beethoven.
It was unlike anything Beth had played before.

There were 3 **octaves**, so her fingers needed to hop from one side to another on the piano, time and again.

“Oh the second octave… I can do… it…”

“Wait! The third one? How can I do it? I can’t reach there…”

It was too far for her music band of birdies…… they couldn’t reach that far.



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And the notes in the score... they were so packed that Beth could not know what she should play. She was dizzy staring at them. They became some **nasty slithering worms.**

“Oh no! Did those worms just mock at me?” thought Beth, disgruntled.

At this point, Beth's knuckles ached and her fingers were in pain, as if they were **tangled.**

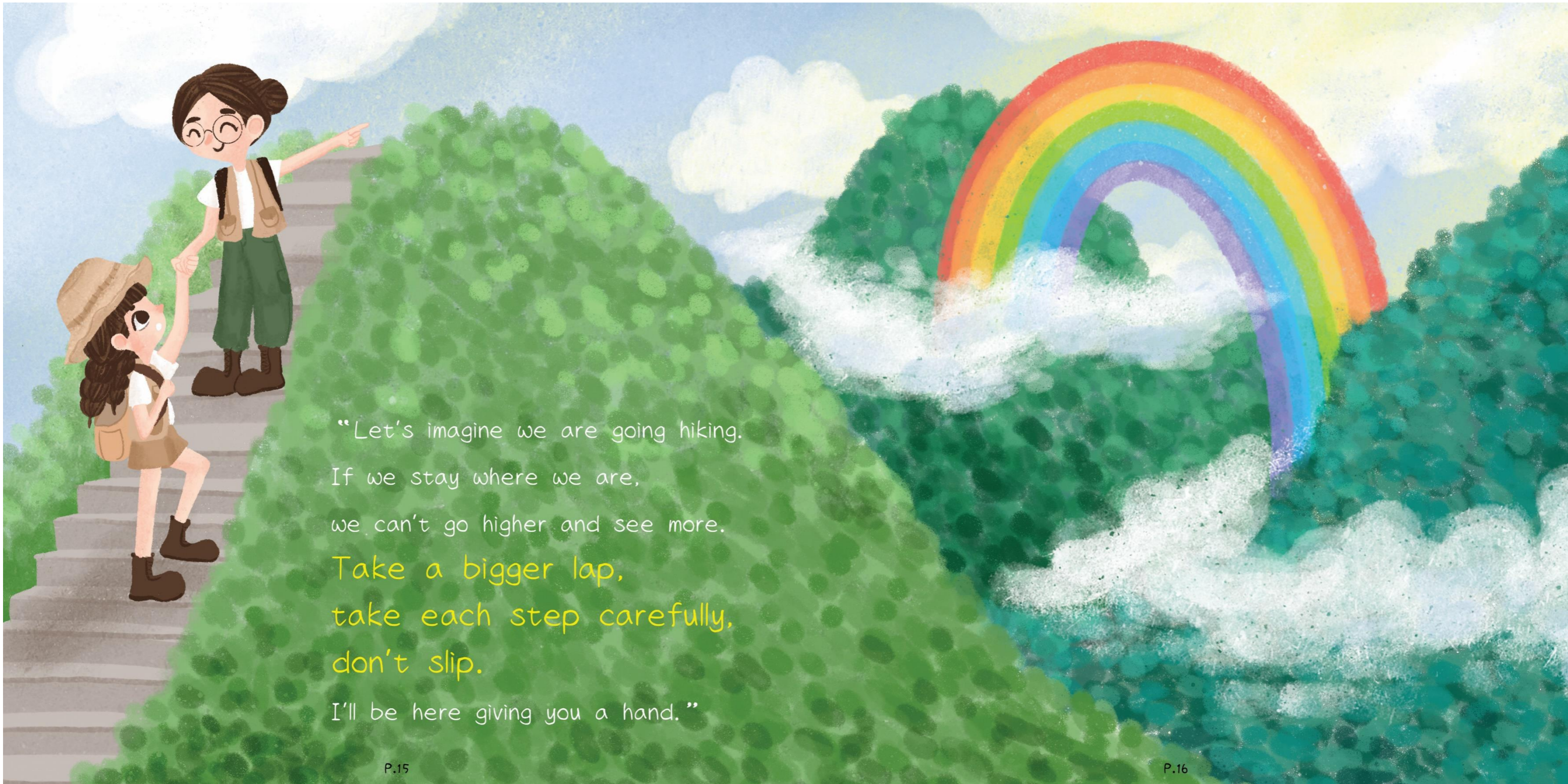


It was the Wednesday piano lesson.
The same thing happened again.
Beth couldn't play the new piece.
She thumped the keyboard
and burst into tears.

Her piano teacher Ms Jo did not say a word.
Instead, she put both thumbs of herself
gently on Beth's temples on both sides.
This massage soothed Beth a lot.

“Now, clasp your hands like this.
Then shake them gently,”
advised Ms Jo,
wearing a smile the whole time.





“Let’s imagine we are going hiking.

If we stay where we are,
we can’t go higher and see more.

Take a bigger lap,
take each step carefully,
don’t slip.

I’ll be here giving you a hand.”


Ms Jo gave Beth some practices.
She asked Beth to extend her arms,
and imagine that she was hiking up the hill,
trying to see a better view from the top.

At the same time,

Beth knew she wanted to go further.

She wanted to play this song.





Now Beth had to tell her fingers to work with her. These ten birdies were too excited to fly further but they had no idea where to land.

Those tiny flapping wings needed order.

“We can do it!” said Beth to her ten companions.

“Now calm down, be brave and take a big step!”

When Beth really couldn't reach the end of the keyboard, Ms Jo gave her a little nudge.

"Well done!"

"Beautiful!"

"Way to go!"

Little by little, Beth managed to do it, as if Ms Jo had helped her reach a new height of the hill, where she could finally see the whole view down below. There, she saw all the notes of the score of the song *levitating*, nice and easy.





“When I was your age,
I had not even started playing the piano.
I remember when I learnt this song,
I felt the same as you are doing.
But I believed in breakthroughs.”

“Breakthroughs?” asked Beth.

“Yes. They are what **push us to go further.**
They are what **make us know we are more than**
who we think we are.
They **make us stronger,**
wiser and better.”






“Now are you ready to try a harder,
but an even more beautiful song?”

asked Ms Jo, with a wink.



“Absolutely!” replied Beth,
throwing her arms in the air, overjoyed.

The page features a light blue background with a large, stylized piano keyboard graphic on the left side. Scattered throughout are various musical symbols including a treble clef, a sharp sign, and several musical notes in black and yellow. The title 'After-thought' is written in a blue, sans-serif font at the top center.

After-thought

1. Do you like music?
When you are listening to a piece of music, what else do you do?
2. Should Beth thump the keyboard when she could not play the song?
Why not?
3. How did Ms Jo help Beth play the difficult song?
What did she compare reaching the higher octaves to?
4. Have you ever gone hiking?
Did you want to give up when you felt exhausted?
5. Have you ever come across something very difficult?
How did you feel? Did you overcome it?
6. If you were Beth, how would you express your thankfulness to Ms Jo?

The page features a light purple background with a large, stylized piano keyboard graphic on the right side. Scattered throughout are various musical symbols including a treble clef, a sharp sign, and several musical notes in red, blue, green, and orange. The title 'Postscript' is written in a blue, sans-serif font at the top center.

Postscript

The 150th Joint-True Light Writing Competition was a success, receiving entries from students who used their words to express their immense gratitude to and precious memories in True Light.

With a history of a century and a half, pursuing excellence and breakthroughs is what brings True Light infinite possibilities and advancements. The story of "Dancing Music Notes" is adapted from an entry from the Writing Competition, telling the story of our founder Harriet Noyes and glorify her perseverance and resilience, which are some of the very virtues True Light upholds.

There are bound to be obstacles in our lives. Yet, with our adamant faith in God and our unwavering effort, we can always make it through. "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14). With God's guidance, we shall succeed.



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