



lingoda

Beethoven and Mozart

READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1017R_EN

LANGUAGE
English






Goals

- Can read and understand a longer and more complex text about Beethoven and Mozart.
- Can clearly present and discuss my own experiences of overcoming obstacles in childhood.





Sometimes, child **prodigies** are **derailed** and fail to live up to their childhood potential. Beethoven and Mozart were stars who avoided this fate, and whose works continue to shine brightly across the globe. Can we **trace** their success?



Warm up

What do you know about
Beethoven?





Warm Up



Do you know anything about Mozart?



Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn in 1770. It is remarkable to note that at an early age he showed the deepest **distaste** for music, unlike the other great composers, who **evinced** their musical interest from their earliest years. His father whipped him severely before Beethoven would consent to sit down at the **harpsichord**. It was not until he was past the age of ten that his genuine interest in music began to show itself. His first **compositions** were what revealed his genius and aptitude for music. When Mozart heard him play them, he famously said, "Mind, you will hear that boy talked of."

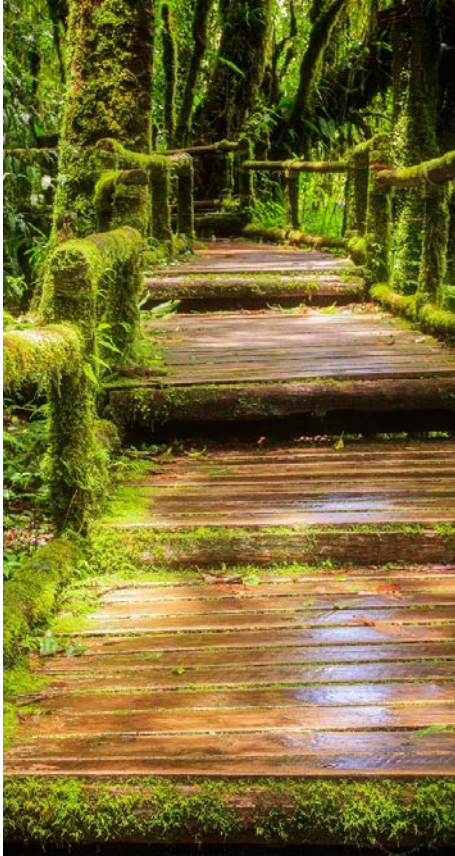


Beethoven

Even in his youth, Beethoven made a **profound** impression on all who knew him. Aside from the **palpable** marks of his talent, he possessed an **indomitable hauteur**. As a person constantly **communing with** the **intangible** world of sound, he had a mysterious, absent-minded air about him. Beethoven's imagination was always at work on some musical idea or another, and it is said that he **unconsciously** impressed his mastery of the topic on almost everyone he met.



Beethoven



It was early in 1800 that Beethoven finally **disclosed** his sad secret. Walking one day in the woods with his devoted friend and pupil Ferdinand Ries, he explained to his friend how the whole joyous world of sound was gradually becoming closed off to him. Details unnoticed by others but **intelligible** to his genius, like the charm of the human voice, notes of woodland birds, and sweet **babblings** of nature were soon to be lost to him forever. The full-born splendours of music were all fast **receding** from his grasp as his hearing **deteriorated**.



Beethoven



At last, Beethoven became so deaf that the most stunning crash of thunder or the fortissimo of the full orchestra went unnoticed by him. His bitter, **heartrending** cry of agony when he realised that his problem was **irremediable** is full of eloquent despair: "As autumn leaves wither and fall, so are my hopes blighted. Almost as I came, I depart. Even the **lofty** courage, which so often animated me in the lovely days of summer, is gone forever!"



Vocabulary review

distaste

harpsichord

intangible

unconsciously

palpable

to evince

composition

to commune with
something

indomitable hauteur



Vocabulary Review

lofty

to disclose

intelligible

animated

to recede

babblings

irremediable

heartrending

to deteriorate



Make sentences using these new words

1. intelligible



2. composition



3. palpable



4. hauteur

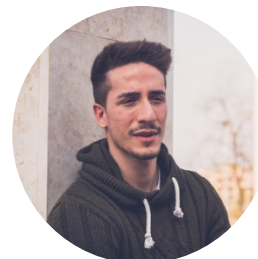


5. animated





Reimagine the conversation that took place between Beethoven and Ries. You are Beethoven. Try to explain that you are losing your hearing.



Ferdinand, I have something important to tell you...

I know. I've been struggling...

Well...

Why Ludwig, this is such terrible news, I can hardly believe it!

Yes, of course, I understand. Is there anything else you need my help with?



Question

Despite going deaf, Beethoven continued to produce incredible music. Can you think of a time in your life when you had to overcome insurmountable obstacles?

sport

education

discrimination



Mozart



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is one of the **immortal** names in music and, at the mention of composers, is possibly the first name which comes to mind for many people. His colourful life contradicts the held idea that extraordinary youthful talent is **apt** to be followed by a **sluggish** or **commonplace** maturity.

One ordinary day, Mozart's father entered the house with a friend and came upon his child bent over a **score of music**. The little Mozart, not yet five years old, told his father he was writing a concerto for the piano. When his father examined his son's work, tears of joy and **astonishment** rolled down his face on perceiving its accuracy and excellence.



Mozart



At about the same time, Mozart offered to play the violin at a local performance of some chamber music. His father refused, saying, "How can you? You have never learned the violin."

"One needs not study for that," said this young musical **prodigy**. Taking the instrument, he played second violin with ease and accuracy throughout the performance. Such **precocity** seems almost incredible, and only in the history of music does it find any parallel. Those people with such levels of aptitude truly are **few and far between**.



Mozart



Taken to Vienna, the six-year-old **virtuoso** astonished the court by his brilliant talents. The future Queen of France, Marie Antoinette, was particularly delighted with him, and the little Mozart naively said he would like to marry her, for she was so good to him.

His father, despite having very little money, devoted several years to an artistic tour with him and his younger, less talented sister. They travelled together through the German cities, Paris, and London. Everywhere they went, people demonstrated the greatest enthusiasm for this charming bud of promise.



Mozart



In Paris, they were **warmly received** at the court. In London, his improvisations and piano sonatas excited audiences and earned the greatest admiration. It was also in London where he published his third composition. These journeys were an uninterrupted **chain of triumphs** for the child virtuoso on the piano, organ, violin, and in singing.

This short history barely **scratches the surface** of Mozart's plentiful achievements. The musical genius he displayed in his youth only developed further as he grew with age. Short as it was, Mozart's career was extraordinarily fruitful, and serves as an inspiration to any individual who has dreamed of success in music.



Vocabulary review

few and far between

immortal **sluggish**

apt commonplace

score of music to perceive

prodigy **precocity**

astonishment



What do you think these new phrases mean? Try to use each in a sentence

few and far
between

warmly
received

chain of
triumphs

scratch the
surface



Discuss

What do you think is the most important thing for a child's success in life? Is a talented child always bound to succeed? Discuss in relation to the text you have read so far about Beethoven and Mozart.

//

His father whipped him severely before Beethoven would consent to sit down at the harpsichord.

//

//

When Mozart's father examined his son's work, tears of joy and astonishment rolled down his face...

//



Write a letter home

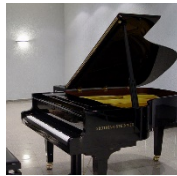
Imagine you are Mozart midway through your tour of Europe. Write a letter home to your best friend explaining the highlights of the trip so far. Try to fit in some of the sentences you wrote in the previous activity. Write from anywhere in Germany, Paris, or London – it's your choice!

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing a letter. It contains several horizontal lines for text. The lines are arranged as follows: a short line on the right side near the top; a short line on the left side; a series of seven horizontal lines in the middle; a short line on the left side; and a short line on the left side near the bottom.



Compare and contrast: Beethoven and Mozart

Discuss the following questions



1

Which differences are we beginning to notice between Beethoven and Mozart at an early age?



2

Think about Beethoven and Mozart's fathers. What differences do you see between their parenting styles?



3

How did Beethoven and Mozart differ in the progression of their respective careers?



Discussion

**Whose story
impressed you
the most? Why?**



Over to you

Beethoven and Mozart had very different upbringings. How did you get on with your parents as a child? Looking back, what do you think of their parenting skills? Use the words below to help you.



strict

few and far
between

relaxed

close

honest

freedom

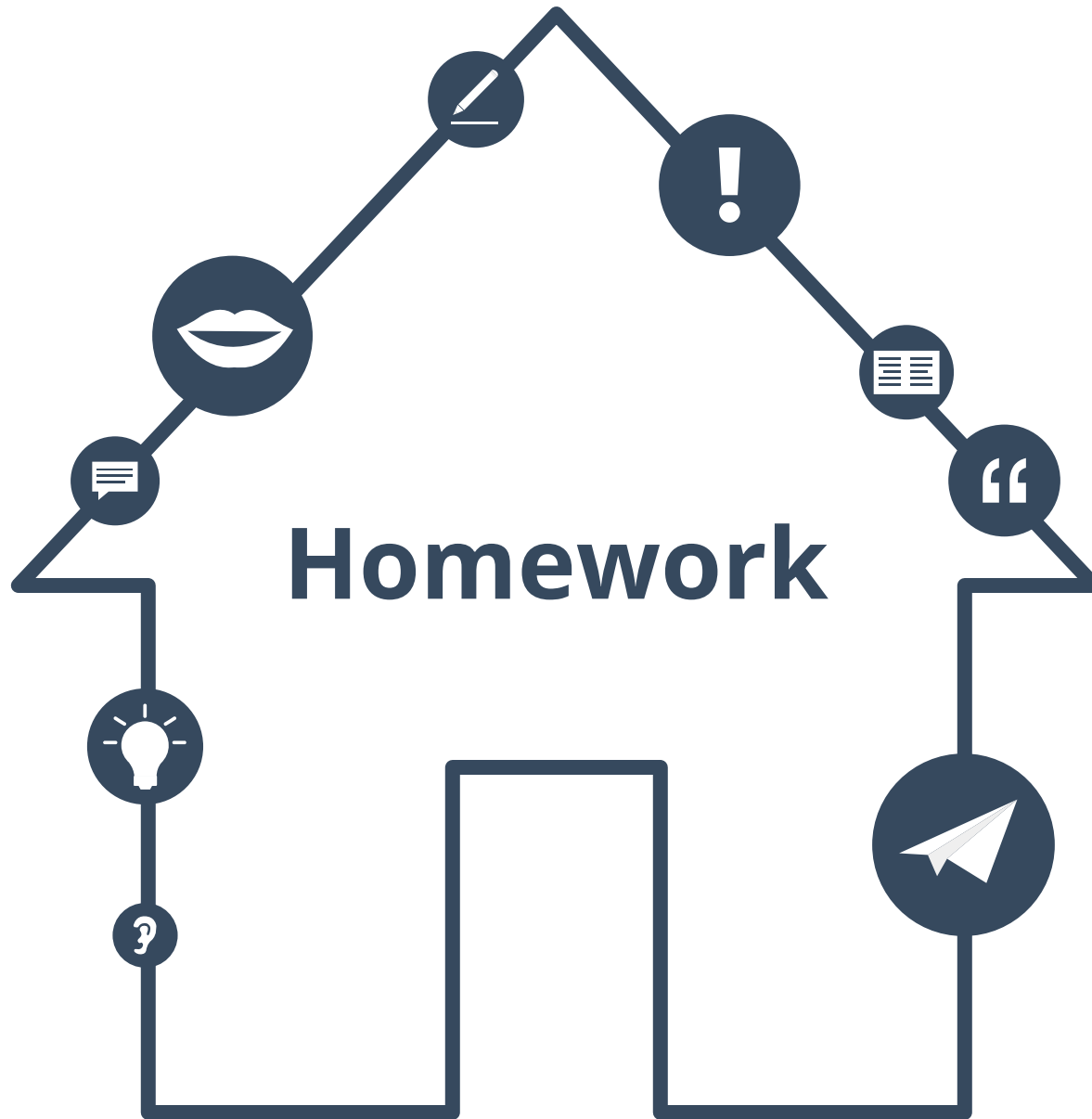


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







List activity

Write a list of similarities and differences between Beethoven and Mozart

Similarities

Differences



Write about you

Use some of the vocabulary, phrases and ideas from this lesson to describe a time where you overcame a mental or physical barrier in your life. Use the words below to help you, if you need to.

insurmountable

animated

Family support

A chain of events

childhood

prodigy

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