

THE PIANO DUET



I stumbled through the last two measures of the duet, as Maddie, true to form, played her part perfectly. When we were done, there was a deafening silence in the room. I wanted to slide under the piano.

“So, Kamal, how many hours did you practice this week?” asked Mr. Armstrong, with doubt in his voice.

I decided to tough it out. I listed this week’s excuses, like extra soccer practice, a science project to finish, babysitting, you name it. Finally, I ran out of steam.

“At least you didn’t try to tell me your piano was broken,” he remarked wryly. “Do you think it’s fair to Maddie that you aren’t practicing your part of this piece?”

I really did feel badly on the inside, but I couldn't lose face in front of them. "I'm throwing in the towel if that's the way you want it!" I said hotly. "Maddie can find herself another duet partner for the recital!"

Then I got up and stomped out of the room, just in case they didn't get the message. I half expected one of them to call me back, but all I heard was their low voices and then Maddie's playing. I went outside and sulked.

Then I started remembering all the fun we had had learning this duet. There were some great moments when we played so perfectly together. What happened? When it came to polishing our performance, I just couldn't get my act together. How selfish was that?

DID YOU KNOW?

A **piano duet** is a piece of music for two people to play at the same time on the same piano. One person plays the low notes and one person plays the high notes.

I got up and went back inside to face the music. "I lost my head, and I'm sorry for being such a baby. Mr. Armstrong, will you help me work out a practice schedule?"

We have two weeks until the recital, and Maddie and I are going to be perfect!

