

## A Big Decision

12            Although he was in fifth grade, Alex was small for his age.  
 23            He was shorter than his sister, Donna, who was one year  
 37            younger. When Alex told his sister he wanted to play a bass in the  
 48            school orchestra, she laughed. “That bass is triple your size,” said  
 59            Donna, chuckling. When she suggested that he learn to play the  
 69            violin because it was more his size, he ignored her.  
 80            Alex signed up for the orchestra the next day, and the  
 92            leader, Mrs. Higgins, was elated when he told her he wanted to  
 104           play a bass. She introduced Alex to his fellow bass players who  
 111           were all girls and petite in size.  
 124           “I will look like a giant in that row,” Alex informed his mom  
 126           that evening.  
 136           “Having this beautiful instrument does not mean you will be  
 148           able to play it,” his mother reminded him. “You will have to  
 151           practice every day.”  
 162           Alex never missed a rehearsal. He practiced his part every day  
 173           after school. He took excellent care of his bass and bow,  
 185           rubbing down the warm wood. In fact, Alex became so good that  
 198           one of the girls in his row even asked him to help her.

- What is the “big decision” in this story?
- Why did Alex become so good at playing the bass?

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Words Read	-	Errors	=	WCPM

- Fall (110 WCPM)
- Winter (127 WCPM)
- Spring (139 WCPM)

WCPM	/	Words Read	=	Accuracy %

PROSODY				
	L1	L2	L3	L4
Reading in Phrases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Syntax	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Self-correction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intonation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>