



# THE PIANO

ACTIVITY BOOK





...house  
...strong  
...and blown  
...a rich and  
...I love with it.  
...Collings, who  
...bought their plots,  
...One man sold for a  
...big money for a  
...Collings was larger  
...One man loved a character, so  
...ent. Collings owned the Great  
...about who owned the Great  
...ame to nothing.  
...the island for sale for a million  
...when an advertisement in the  
...of a long and complicated legal  
...based in Dingle, which had acquired  
...of the land, and the Irish government  
...y Charles Haughey, the owner of Inis  
...nted to establish a national park. The issue  
...le Supreme Court as I crossed on that first  
...n, and the future was unclear. There were  
...d being brought back to life anyway, I had

## ACTIVITIES

### BEFORE READING

Read the story introduction on the first page of the book, and the back cover. How much do you know now about the story? Tick one box for each sentence.

- 1 The boy works for a farmer.
- 2 Everything in the old building is rubbish.
- 3 The boy has had piano lessons for many years.
- 4 The boy has never had lessons, but he can play the piano.
- 5 The boy is clever and does well at school.
- 6 Music changes the boy's life.

True      False

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 What is going to happen in the story? Can you guess?  
story? Tick one box for each sentence.

- 1 The farmer throws the piano away.
- 2 The farmer gives the piano to the boy.
- 3 The farmer sells the piano.
- 4 The boy keeps the piano and learns to play it.
- 5 The boy loses his job because of the piano.
- 6 The boy decides to be a music teacher.
- 7 The story has a happy ending

True      False

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





## ACTIVITIES

### WHILE READING

**Chapter 1** Read and answer these questions.

- 1 How did Sally Hill feel before she met Sir Anthony?
- 2 Who looked like a farmer's wife?
- 3 How old was Sir Anthony when he first touched a piano?
- 4 When did Sir Anthony leave, school?
- 5 Where did he work after he left school?
- 6 What was Sir Anthony's school life?

**Read Chapters 2 and 3.** Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Change the false sentences into true ones.

- 1 Mr Grey didn't enjoy teaching children.
- 2 Tony was a slow, quiet boy.
- 3 Tuesday was reading day at Tony's school. '
- 4 Tony often went to concerts.
- 5 There were six children in Tony's family.
- 6 Most children got jobs in offices when they left school
- 7 Tony was interested in the flowers and trees in the country
- 8 Mr Wood had a daughter who was older than Tony.
- 9 On the farm Tony worked hard and slept badly.
- 10 Pip, John and Tony all liked working on the farm.





...house  
...strong  
...blown  
...a rich and  
...love with it.  
...a holiday  
...plots.  
...for a  
...larger  
...character, so  
...the Great  
...million  
...legal  
...acquired  
...government  
...of Inis  
...the issue  
...that first  
...were  
...I had  
...the future was unclear. There were  
...the Supreme Court as I crossed on that first  
...Charles Haughey, the owner of Inis  
...based in Dingle, which had acquired  
...of a long and complicated legal  
...the island for sale for a million  
...about who owned the Great  
...to nothing.  
...One man sold for a  
...big money for a  
...bought their plots.  
...I love with it.  
...a rich and  
...blown  
...strong  
...house

## ACTIVITIES

### WHILE READING

**Read Chapter 4. Who said these words, and to whom?**

- 1 'It isn't a cupboard. It's an old piano.'
- 2 'We can't get rid of this. We really can't.'
- 3 'I have piano lessons at school but I can't play like you.'
- 4 'It is rubbish, boy. Take it away.'
- 5 'I don't want money. I want the piano.'

**Before you read Chapter 5, can you guess the answer to this question?**

Tony wants to keep the piano. Will he ...

- 1 hide it on the farm?
- 2 ask Pip and John to keep it in their house?
- 3 find another place to keep it?
- 4 ask Mrs Lark to keep it for him?
- 5 ask Mrs Wood and Linda to help him?

**Read Chapter 5. Choose the best question-word for these questions, and then answer them.**

**Who / Where / Why**

- 1 ... did Tony go into the school?
- 2 ... was the school empty?
- 3 ... helped Tony to move the piano?
- 4 ... did Tony go every evening that summer?
- 5 ... taught Tony to read music?







...house  
...strong  
...and blown  
...a rich and  
...ings, who  
...love with it.  
...as a holiday  
...their plots.  
...big money for a  
...One man sold for a  
...Collings was larger  
...character, so  
...ent. Collings loved the Great  
...to nothing.  
...about who owned the million  
...ame to nothing.  
...when an advertisement in the  
...the island for sale for a million  
...of a long and complicated legal  
...based in Dingle, which had acquired  
...y Charles Haughey, the owner of Inis  
...of the land, and the Irish government  
...nted to establish a national park. The issue  
...y Charles Haughey, the owner of Inis  
...the Supreme Court as I crossed on that first  
...on, and the future was unclear. There were  
...d being brought back to life anyway, I had

## ACTIVITIES

### AFTER READING

**After Reading 1** This is the beginning of Sally Hill's story about Sir Anthony Evans. Can you find and correct the fourteen mistakes in it?

Yesterday was Sir Anthony Evans' seventieth birthday concert. He played music for the guitar by Mozart, and millions of people came to listen to this very famous guitarist. After the concert, I went to see him and his sister, Lady Linda Evans, in the theatre dressing-room, and Sir Anthony told me his story. He came second in a music competition when he was sixteen, but the story really began before that. One day in an old factory building a boy called Tony found a new piano. He was fourteen at the time. He came from a musical family and he knew a lot about music, and when he touched the keys of the piano . . .

**2** Put these words into two lists. Then think of a name for each list and write them in the boxes.

animal, chicken, college, concert, country, cow, field, grass, keys, lorry, note, piano, play, practise, song, sound, yard



...house  
...strong  
...blown  
...a rich and  
...ings, who  
...love with it.  
...as a holiday  
...their plots.  
...One man sold for a  
...big money for a  
...Collings was larger  
...character, so  
...ent. Collings loved the Great  
...about who owned the island  
...when an advertisement in the  
...the island for sale for a million  
...of a long and complicated legal  
...based in Dingle, which had acquired  
...Charles Haughey, the owner of Inis  
...of the land, and the Irish government  
...to establish a national park. The issue  
...y Supreme Court as I crossed on that first  
...n, and the future was unclear. There were  
...d being brought back to life anyway, I had

## ACTIVITIES

### AFTER READING

3 Sally Hill also talked to Lady Linda Evans about Sir Anthony. Put their conversation into the correct order and write in the speakers' names. Sally speaks first (number 3).

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 'When he played the piano that first time, I knew that he was a real musician - much more than me. And I wanted to help him.'

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 'How did you feel when he won the competition?'

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 'What was Sir Anthony like when you first met him?'

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 'It was wonderful! I was so happy for him. He went away after that, of course - but he always came back.'

5 \_\_\_\_\_ 'Why did you want to teach him?'

6 \_\_\_\_\_ 'I didn't want to tell anybody. It was our secret. Tony liked learning about music - and I liked being with Tony.'

7 \_\_\_\_\_ 'He was a big, strong boy. He didn't say very much, but he was very nice.'

8 \_\_\_\_\_ 'Why didn't you tell your parents about the lessons?'

9 \_\_\_\_\_ 'Oh yes! He learnt very quickly, and he remembered everything.'

10 \_\_\_\_\_ 'So you taught him to read music. Was he a good student?'





## AFTER READING

- 1 Where are these people?
- 2 Who are they helping, and why?
- 3 What happened earlier that evening?



...house  
...strong  
...and blown  
...a rich and  
...I love with it.  
...ings, who  
...as a holiday  
...bought their plots,  
...One man sold for a  
...big money for a  
...Collings was larger  
...ent. Collings loved a character, so  
...about who owned the Great  
...ngle loved a character, so  
...ame to nothing.  
...when an advertisement in the  
...the island for sale for a million  
...of a long and complicated legal  
...based in Dingle, which had acquired  
...of the land, and the Irish government  
...y Charles Haughey, the owner of Inis  
...nted to establish a national park. The issue  
...le Supreme Court as I crossed on that first  
...n, and the future was unclear. There were  
...d being brought back to life anyway, I had

## ACTIVITIES

### AFTER READING

5 Write in the names which go best with these descriptions.

Mr and Mrs Wood / Mr Gordon / Mrs Lark / Linda Wood / Pip and John / Tony's mother

1 helped Tony to move the piano.

2 gave Tony time for his piano lessons, and paid for his lessons at the College of Music.

3 gave Tony his first piano lessons free.

4 got a job for him on Mr Wood's farm.

5 taught Tony to read music.

6 taught Tony to enjoy singing.

Whose help do you think was most important to Tony? Put the names of the characters in order, with the most important one first.

6 Do you agree (A) or disagree (D) with these sentences? Explain why.

1 If you have a special feeling for music (or football, or writing), you don't have to work hard or practise every day.

2 If you want to be really good at something, it must be the most important thing in your life.

3 Luck is more important than hard work if you want to do well.

4 If you want to do well, the most important thing is to belong to a rich family.

