A Feel for Music

Having a real feel for music, Cora loved to play the piano for friends and family. The problem was that she made mistakes because she never found enough time to sit down and practice.

One day, Mrs. Ruiz, the music teacher, announced that there was going to be a concert, and she wanted Cora to play a piece of music of her choice. Very excited, Cora decided to play “My Favorite Things.”

Mrs. Ruiz called all of the children to her house to play their pieces a few days before the concert. To Cora’s horror, Matt had decided to play “My Favorite Things” too. Matt played the piece perfectly, but he did not put any feeling into his music. However, all Cora could think was that he would play without any mistakes, while she would make mistakes and look silly.

The next day, Cora told Mrs. Ruiz that she did not want to be in the concert. The teacher said sadly, “You are a very good player because you feel the music, but this means little unless you believe in your talent and give it the time it requires.”
The Bracelet

Mrs. Dell was delighted when her children gave her a very special present for her birthday. It was a beautiful gold bracelet with five charms, one charm from each of her five children. The clasp on the bracelet was a bit loose, but she planned to have that fixed just as soon as she could get around to it.

Not willing to take the bracelet off, Mrs. Dell wore it always, whether she was at work or doing the household chores. One night before she went to bed, she noticed that the bracelet was not on her wrist. Frantic, she looked for it everywhere, but she just couldn’t find it. Feeling miserable, she told the children that she had lost their special gift.

Fifteen years later, all of Mrs. Dell’s children were grown and out of the house, so she decided to sell it. The movers had just removed the last piece of furniture, the big sofa, when Mrs. Dell noticed something shiny on the floor. There was her lost bracelet, just like a special gift all over again.
Gravity

The force that draws objects toward one another is called gravity. It is the earth’s gravity that keeps the moon moving around it and holds the ocean waters against it.

Tides are the rise and fall of large bodies of water. They are caused by the gravity of the moon and the sun, which serves to pull on the waters of the earth. Even though the moon is much smaller than the sun, it has a stronger pull because it is much closer to the earth than the sun is.

When the moon is directly overhead, its gravity causes the waters of the earth to move toward it. As the water follows the moon, the oceans puff out in its direction, resulting in a high tide. When this happens, water rises and can come up onto the land for a short distance. A second bulge occurs on the opposite side of our planet because the earth is also being pulled toward the moon and away from the water on that side. As the moon moves farther away, the water drawn to it will fall back in a low tide.
A Biography of Sequoya

Born around 1765, Sequoya was a member of the Cherokee tribe. He was always fascinated by the white people’s ability to communicate with one another by making marks on paper, which he would call “talking leaves.” In 1809, he decided that the Cherokee should have a written language of their own. In spite of constant teasing by friends and family, Sequoya gave 12 years of his life to creating an alphabet for his people.

Sequoya found out that the Cherokee language was made up of a particular group of sounds. His alphabet gave a symbol for each of these sounds, resulting in 85 letters in all.

In 1821, Sequoya showed the leading men of the Cherokee Nation how his new alphabet worked. These wise men at once recognized the great worth of the alphabet and quickly adopted it for their people. In just a matter of months, thousands of Cherokee were able to read and write their own language for the first time. Because of Sequoya’s vision, the Cherokee could now keep a written record of their great history to be handed down to generations to come.