



1a) The Story of Tommy and the Talent Thief

Read and listen to the story of Tommy and the Talent Thief.

Tommy loves dancing. His dancing hero is Michael Jackson.

So when he fails his dance exam, he is very upset. He thinks that he has no talent for dancing. But Tommy's teacher, Miss Knickerbockers, tells him a secret. She tells him that his dancing talent has been stolen by the Talent Thief. She explains that the Talent Thief lives in a house at the top of a mountain. At night, he comes down the mountain to steal children's talents for himself.

Tommy decides to travel through the deep forest and climb to the top of the mountain to get his talent back.

In the forest, he meets Wilf and Kat. Tommy tells them about his mission. Wilf tells Tommy it is a waste of time. He says the journey is too far, the mountain is too high and the mission is too difficult. Kat tells Tommy to stay with them and relax. But Tommy knows his dancing is more important than relaxing. He leaves Kat and Wilf and continues through the forest.

Next, he meets Hilda. Hilda is a student who is trying to learn English (unsuccessfully). She believes that she has no talent for learning languages. Tommy convinces Hilda to join him and get her talent from the Talent Thief.

They stop at a small shop to buy the things they need for the journey. At the shop, they meet Nigel and explain their mission to him. Nigel has no talent for mathematics and decides to join them. The three friends make the long and tiring journey up the mountain to the Talent Thief's house.

But when they arrive they have a big surprise waiting for them...





1b) The Story of Tommy and the Talent Thief

Read the story of Tommy and the Talent Thief and fill in the missing words from the box above. Now listen and see if your answers are correct.

talent surprise relax forest shop important dancing house

Tommy loves (1) _____. His dancing hero is Michael Jackson.

So when he fails his dance exam, he is very upset. He thinks that he has no

(2) _____ for dancing. But Tommy's teacher, Miss Knickerbockers, tells him a secret. She tells him that his dancing talent has been stolen by the Talent Thief. She explains that the Talent Thief lives in a (3) _____ at the top of a mountain. At night, he comes down the mountain to steal children's talents for himself.

Tommy decides to travel through the deep (4) _____ and climb to the top of the mountain to get his talent back.

In the forest, he meets Wilf and Kat. Tommy tells them about his mission. Wilf tells Tommy it is a waste of time. He says the journey is too far, the mountain is too high and the mission is too difficult. Kat tells Tommy to stay with them and (5) _____. But Tommy knows his dancing is more (6) _____ than relaxing. He leaves Kat and Wilf and continues through the forest.

Next, he meets Hilda. Hilda is a student who is trying to learn English (unsuccessfully). She believes that she has no talent for learning languages. Tommy convinces Hilda to join him and get her talent from the Talent Thief.

They stop at a small (7) _____ to buy the things they need for the journey. At the shop, they meet Nigel and explain their mission to him. Nigel has no talent for mathematics and decides to join them. The three friends make the long and tiring journey up the mountain to the Talent Thief's house.

But when they arrive they have a big (8) _____ waiting for them...





1c) The Story of Tommy and the Talent Thief

Read the story of Tommy and the Talent Thief. What do you think the missing words are?
Now listen to the story to see if you are correct.

Tommy loves (1) _____. His dancing hero is Michael Jackson.

So when he fails his dance exam, he is very upset. He thinks that he has no

(2) _____ for dancing. But Tommy's teacher, Miss Knickerbockers, tells him a secret. She tells him that his dancing talent has been stolen by the Talent Thief. She explains that the Talent Thief lives in a (3) _____ at the top of a mountain. At night, he comes down the mountain to steal children's talents for himself.

Tommy decides to travel through the deep (4) _____ and climb to the top of the mountain to get his talent back.

In the forest, he meets Wilf and Kat. Tommy tells them about his mission. Wilf tells Tommy it is a waste of time. He says the journey is too far, the mountain is too high and the mission is too difficult. Kat tells Tommy to stay with them and (5) _____. But Tommy knows his dancing is more (6) _____ than relaxing. He leaves Kat and Wilf and continues through the forest.

Next, he meets Hilda. Hilda is a student who is trying to learn English (unsuccessfully). She believes that she has no talent for learning languages. Tommy convinces Hilda to join him and get her talent from the Talent Thief.

They stop at a small (7) _____ to buy the things they need for the journey. At the shop, they meet Nigel and explain their mission to him. Nigel has no talent for mathematics and decides to join them. The three friends make the long and tiring journey up the mountain to the Talent Thief's house.

But when they arrive they have a big (8) _____ waiting for them...





1a-c) The Story of Tommy and the Talent Thief

Teaching notes

Time

30–40 minutes

Level

Easy / Medium / Difficult

Skills Focus

Vocabulary, reading and writing.

Aim

To familiarise the students with the story of *Tommy and the Talent Thief* and the vocabulary used in the story.

Instructions

Ask the students what they think will happen in the story of *Tommy and the Talent Thief*. Now give the students Worksheet A. Ask them to read through the text underlining any difficult vocabulary. Present the difficult vocabulary on the board and the students can help each other with the meaning of the words. Then listen to the story of *Tommy and the Talent Thief*.

Alternative activity

For students of a higher level use Worksheet B. Give the students time to decide what the missing words could be from the list. This activity could be done in pairs. Ask the students for suggestions to what the words could be. Listen to see if they are correct. Use Worksheet C for the highest level students.

Answer key

1. dancing
2. talent
3. house
4. forest
5. relax
6. important
7. shop
8. surprise



Tommy & the Talent Thief

2) Talking about yourself

Read about Hilda. Now draw a picture of yourself below and write some sentences about you.

My name is Hilda.

I am fourteen years old.

My hobbies are reading, walking and listening to music.

I like adventures!

I don't like studying English.

My favourite band is One Direction.

My favourite food is chocolate.

My best friends are called Tommy and Nigel.

[Empty speech bubbles for drawing and writing]



2) Talking about yourself

Teaching notes

Time

20–30 minutes

Level

Medium

Skills Focus

Speaking, writing.

Aim

To practice giving personal information about yourself in the present simple.

Instructions

First, ask the students to draw a self-portrait in the box below. Then, ask the students to write about themselves. Using Hilda as an example, the students should write eight sentences about themselves. When they have finished they should introduce themselves to the rest of the class. Encourage the students to use different verbs and a mixture of positives and negatives.

Alternative activity

For students of a higher level, the activity could be done as a third person activity with the students asking a classmate questions to discover the answers, then they could introduce their partners to the class.



Tommy & the Talent Thief

3) The Picture Book of Tommy and the Talent Thief

Can you draw? Draw the pictures of the story.

1. Tommy loves dancing.

2. Tommy fails his dance exam.

3. Tommy sets off to find the Talent Thief.

4. Tommy meets Wilf and Kat in the dark forest.

5. Tommy asks Hilda to come with him on his mission.

6. Tommy and Hilda go to the shop.

7. Tommy, Hilda and Nigel climb the mountain.

8. The Talent Thief's house.



3) The Picture Book of Tommy and the Talent Thief

Teaching notes

Time

20–30 minutes

Level

Easy

Skills Focus

Vocabulary, reading, speaking and drawing.

Aim

To familiarise the students with the story of *Tommy and the Talent Thief* and the vocabulary used in the story.

Instructions

Ask the students to imagine what Tommy, Miss Knickerbockers, Wilf, Kat, Hilda, Nigel and the Talent Thief look like. Discuss with the group what they think the characters are like. Give the students the worksheet and ask them, to draw the pictures of the scene being described in each box.

Alternative activity

Ask students to choose one phrase from the boxes and make a larger more detailed picture of the scene that they have chosen.



Tommy & the Talent Thief

4) Wordsearch

Find the words and characters below in the wordsearch. All vocabulary and characters appear in the vocabulary list.

dancer door language map medal practise thief rain
relax umbrella understand water

A P R A C T I S E A
B O E G A U G N A L
R U T T O L X W R L
E A H D R M A P S E
C H I N O T L D E R
N O E N E O E N E B
A R F R E E R O O M
D N A T S R E D N U



Tommy & the Talent Thief

4) Wordsearch

Teaching notes

Time

15 minutes

Level

Easy

Skills Focus

Vocabulary

Aim

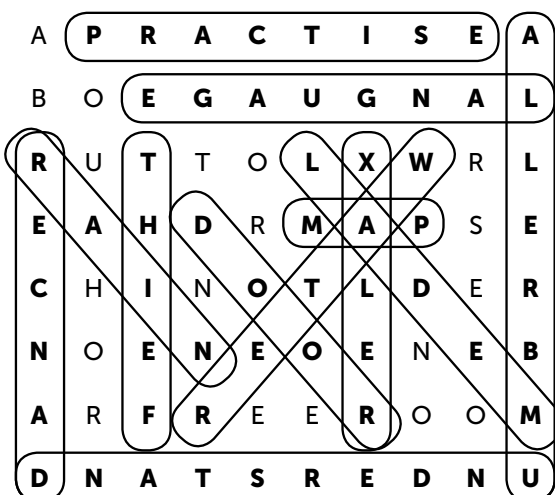
To familiarise the students with the vocabulary of the play.

Instructions

This activity could be used as a fun ice-breaker for the beginning of the class or as a fun activity at the end of the class.

Alternative activity

Students could choose 6–10 more words from the vocabulary list and make their own wordsearch and swap them between classmates.

Answer key

Tommy & the Talent Thief

5) True or False?

Decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1. Tommy is a very good dancer. T F
2. Tommy wants to steal the Talent Thief's talent. T F
3. Mrs Knickerbocker gives Tommy a medal for dancing after his dance exam. T F
4. Mrs Knickerbocker tells Tommy to go to the house on the hill. T F
5. Wilf thinks Tommy should go to see the Talent Thief. T F
6. Hilda wants to learn to speak English. T F
7. Nigel is very good at mathematics. T F
8. Nigel, Hilda and Tommy drive up the mountain. T F



Tommy & the Talent Thief

5) True or False?

Teaching notes

Time

20–30 minutes

Level

Medium

Skills Focus

Listening and writing. Possibly speaking.

Aim

To familiarise the students with the story of *Tommy and the Talent Thief*.

Instructions

Students read and listen to activity one – The Story of Tommy. Individually or in pairs they decide if the sentences about the story are true or false. This can be a written or spoken activity.

Extended activity

Ask the students to write 5 more true or false to ask the other students.

Answer key

1. False. Tommy is not a very good dancer.
2. False. Tommy wants to take his talent back from the Talent Thief.
3. False. Miss Knickerbockers doesn't give Tommy a medal for dancing after his dance exam.
4. True. Miss Knickerbockers tells Tommy to go to the house at the top of the mountain.
5. False. Wilf thinks Tommy should not go to see the Talent Thief.
6. True. Hilda wants to learn to speak English.
7. False. Nigel is very bad at mathematics.
8. False. Nigel, Hilda and Tommy climb up the mountain.





6a) Songs

Listen to the song and sing along!

We Can Dance

We can dance, we can spin

We can do anything.

Move our hands, move our feet

We can move to any beat. (repeat)

I'm a star, I'm a pro,

I'm the best, I'm a hero,

I'm the top, I'll make you 'woo'!

You'll be amazed, at what I can do!

Look at me, I'm a superstar,

I drink champagne and eat caviar.

I'm the best, I'm the best by far

I'm a super, super, super, super superstar!





6b) Songs

Listen to the songs and fill in the missing words.

to superstar spin best hero feet what do

We Can Dance

We can dance, we can _____

We can _____ anything.

Move our hands, move our _____

We can move _____ any beat. (repeat)

I'm a star, I'm a pro,

I'm the best, I'm a _____,

I'm the top, I'll make you 'woo'!

You'll be amazed, at _____ I can do!

Look at me, I'm a superstar,

I drink champagne and eat caviar.

I'm the _____, I'm the best by far

I'm a super, super, super, super _____!





6e) Songs

Listen to the songs and fill in the missing words.

We Can Dance

We can dance, we can _____

We can _____ anything.

Move our hands, move our _____

We can move _____ any beat. (repeat)

I'm a star, I'm a pro,

I'm the best, I'm a _____,

I'm the top, I'll make you 'woo'!

You'll be amazed, at _____ I can do!

Look at me, I'm a superstar,

I drink champagne and eat caviar.

I'm the _____, I'm the best by far

I'm a super, super, super, super _____!





6a-e) Songs

Teaching notes

Time

30–40 minutes

Level

Easy/Medium

Skills Focus

Vocabulary, listening, singing.

Aim

To familiarise the students with the songs of *Tommy and the Talent Thief* and the vocabulary used within them. We find that the experience is really enhanced by being able to sing along with the songs during the show.

Instructions

Ask the students to sing along with songs to familiarize themselves with the songs (Song sheet A). Use the gap-fill of the song and questions (Song sheet B) for higher level students.

Alternative activity

Get the students to learn the words for homework. Then in the next class give them the gap-fill and ask them to fill in the missing words. Then listen to see if they are correct.

Answer key

We Can Dance

We can dance, we can **spin**

We can **do** anything.

Move our hands, move our **feet**

We can move **to** any beat. (repeat)

I'm a star, I'm a pro,

I'm the best, I'm a **hero**.

I'm the top, I'll make you 'woo'!

You'll be amazed, at **what** I can do!

Look at me, I'm a superstar,

I drink champagne and eat caviar.

I'm the **best**, I'm the best by far

I'm a super, super, super, super **superstar**!



Tommy & the Talent Thief

Vocabulary

best	great	sing
big	grow	small
bottle	high	speak
calculator	hot	spin
caviar	junk food	show
champagne	knock	small
cheap	language	star
close	large	symbol
complicated	let's go	take away
confidence	live	talent
crazy	lose	thief
dance	lost	third
dancer	map	thirsty
demand	medal	today
deserve	meet	tomorrow
difficult	pass	too
don't worry	pay	umbrella
door	practise	understand
exam	rain	visit
expensive	relax	waste of time
fair	road	water
far	second	What's the point?
find	secret	wonderful
first	show	young
get back	silly	
give up	simple	

