

NAME: _____

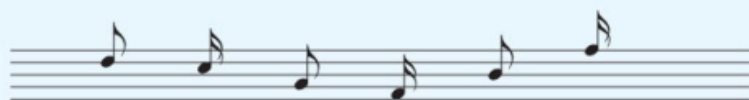
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Reading Comprehension**Activities**

- 1- Read both texts about Nicola and Gio Benedetti and translate them by using your own words.
- 2- Highlight all the verbs that appear in the text and classify them in terms of verb tenses. Are they written in present or past simple?
- 3- Reread and answer about Nicola.
 - a. Who is she?
 - b. Was music important in her family?
 - c. Did her father work hard?
 - d. Were her grandparents very rich or poor?
 - e. Is money important to Nicola and her father?
 - f. Does her father like classical music?
 - g. What does she teach her father?
 - h. What does he teach her?
 - i. When does she play the violin with her sister?
- 4- Now, about Gio.
 - a. Who is Gio Benedetti?
 - b. Where was Gio born?
 - c. Why couldn't he buy the Jaguar car?
 - d. What was Gio's business?
 - e. How old was Nicola when she could play the violin?
 - f. Can Gio play a musical instrument?
 - g. What music does he like? What doesn't he like?
 - h. Does Nicola work hard?
 - i. Why does he cry?
- 5- Reflect about the following questions which are related to the text, and write a composition showing your opinion. Use Present and Past Simple. Be careful with punctuation and use a variety of connectors. Remember that your composition should be coherent and cohesive.
 - Do Nicola and Gio have a good relationship? What about Nicola and her sister?
 - How are they similar or different?
 - What about your family? Who are you close to? Why?

6- Get ready to defend your work!

A PASSION FOR SUCCESS



Nicola Benedetti is a world-famous violinist. She was the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2004 when she was 16. She lives in Chiswick, west London, near her sister, Stephanie, who is also a violinist. Their father, Gio Benedetti, is a businessman. He lives with his wife, Francesca, in Scotland.

Nicola Benedetti

A PASSION FOR

Music



• When I was young, music wasn't very important in our house. Then, when I was four, I started playing the violin. In my first lesson, I was so happy, I couldn't stop crying.

My dad, Gio, was always busy. He was very hard-working. His parents were poor, so he wanted to give me and my sister everything. I like hard work too, and I know what I want – if someone says to me "You can't do that", I think "Oh yes I can!" That's very like my dad.

But my dad's a businessman, and I'm an artist. Money is very important to him, but for me, success isn't the same as earning lots of money. He likes the music I play, but he doesn't like classical music very much. I teach him about music, and he tells me about business.

My sister and I are very close. We sometimes play together – not professionally, but at family occasions like weddings and at Christmas.

I live for my work. I never want to stop. Music is my life. •



Gio Benedetti

A PASSION FOR

Business



• I was born in a small village near Lucca in Italy. We were poor but happy. When I was ten, I came to Scotland to live with my uncle. It was very difficult.

When I was 16, there was a beautiful car – a Jaguar – in the shops but I couldn't afford it. It was too expensive. So I started a business to make money – a dry-cleaning business. Soon there were 15 shops. By the time I was 19, I could afford the Jaguar. That was a very good day!

Nicola was always independent, like me. She could play the violin when she was four. Now she plays concerts all over the world. I am so proud of her. She practises for seven hours a day. Scotland is so proud of her. Everybody knows her now.

I can't play any musical instruments. I like country and western music, but not classical. Nicola knows what she wants. She has a passion to succeed, like me, and she works very hard to get it. When she plays the violin, she's passionate – that's the Italian in her. When I see her play, I often cry. I can't help it. I'm very sentimental. •

