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A Passion for Music sample
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A PASSION FOR MUSIC

Level 2 - A1/A2 Starter (2) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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A Passion for Music
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Introduction

Ben Grimes is fifteen years old. He lives in a small town near London with his mother and younger sister. He is quiet and shy. He doesn't have many friends. He doesn't like school or studying. He only likes music.

Ben plays the trumpet. He is a very good trumpet player. His mother cannot buy him a trumpet. They cost a lot of money. Ben's trumpet belongs to the local government. The trumpet is his best friend. He plays the trumpet every day. His sister doesn't like the trumpet. She thinks it is very noisy. Ben's mother works very hard in a supermarket every day. She is a very good mother to Ben and his sister. She doesn't have much money, but she gives Ben and his sister pocket money every week. She gives them £2 each. Ben's sister buys sweets with her £2. Ben saves his. When he is older, he wants to buy his own trumpet.

Chapter One

Ben gets up at 6:00am every morning. At 6:30, he goes to the park. In the park, he plays his trumpet. He cannot play his trumpet at home because his sister and his neighbours get angry.

They say, "It's too noisy!"

He plays his trumpet in the park until 8:00am. Then, he goes to school. He does not study hard at school. He dreams about his future. In the future, he will be a great trumpet player. He will be rich and famous. He will buy his mother a house. His mother will be very happy.

Ben's teachers are always angry. They say, "Stop dreaming! Study!" But Ben can't stop dreaming, or thinking about his trumpet.

At lunchtime, Ben doesn't play with the other children. He eats his lunch very quickly, and then goes to the music room to practice the trumpet.

After school, Ben goes home. His mother works in the supermarket until 10:00pm, so Ben has to cook dinner for his younger sister every day. After dinner he listens to classical music or jazz music. He shares his bedroom with his sister. She doesn't like Ben's music. She likes pop music. So, every night, Ben listens to music on an old portable CD player.

At school, Ben has a trumpet lesson once a week. A trumpet teacher comes to his school every Tuesday. His trumpet teacher, Ms Jones, is a professional trumpet player. She plays in a jazz band.

Ben's trumpet lessons are free. In Ben's town, there is a government music education programme. The government music education programme pays for children's music lessons. Also, Ben borrows a trumpet from the government music education programme. Ben doesn't want to borrow a trumpet. He wants his own trumpet. He wants to buy a trumpet. On Saturday afternoons, he goes into the town centre. He stands outside the music shop and looks at the trumpets in the window. He dreams about buying a trumpet, but the trumpets in the shop are too expensive for his family.

Today is Tuesday. He is happy because he has a trumpet lesson with Ms Jones. He goes to the music room.

"Good morning Ms Jones."

"Good morning Ben," says Ms Jones.

Ben looks at Ms Jones. She doesn't look very happy.

"Are you OK Ms Jones? You look sad," says Ben.

"Ben, I have some bad news," says Ms Jones.

"Bad news? What is it?" asks Ben. "What's happened?"

"Oh Ben, I'm very sorry," says Ms Jones. "Up to now, the government has paid for your trumpet lessons. The government lends you a trumpet. It's a very good system. But the government has no money. It can't pay for your music lessons anymore. The music education programme will finish."

"Finish? So, I can't have trumpet lessons anymore?" asks Ben.

"I'm sorry, Ben. You can't have free trumpet lessons anymore. If you want trumpet lessons, you will have to pay for the lessons. And, you will have to buy your own trumpet. I'm very sorry," says Ms Jones.

Ben is very shocked. He sits down on the chair next to Ms Jones.

"But, I can't buy a trumpet! I can't pay for lessons! They are too expensive! Please help me, Ms Jones, please help me!"

Ben starts to cry, and Ms Jones feels bad. She wants to help Ben, but he can't pay for lessons and she can't give him free lessons.

That night, Ben goes home and talks to his mother. He tells his mother the bad news.

"Mum, I want to play the trumpet. I want to have trumpet lessons," says Ben.

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