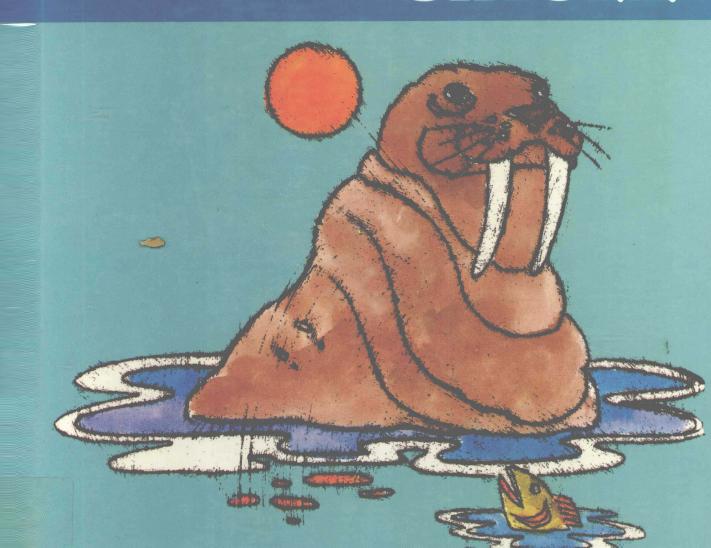


# FULL CIRCLE



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#### BEGINNINGS.

When you have finished one thing, it's time to start something new. Sometimes something you do may not work right. Then it's time to start over. There are always new ways to do things. If you think about the things you do, you may find new ways to do these things.

In "Beginnings," you will read about a girl and her grandfather who try something new. You will read about two girls who speak different languages and find a way to talk to each other. As you read, see if you can think of other ways to do the things you read about. Would your way work as well?

### Phoebe's First Duet



Judith Davis

I never missed a party at Grandpa Theo's. All my aunts, uncles, and cousins were there. All Grandpa Theo's friends and music pupils came, too.

The table was covered with good food. People talked and laughed and sang. Sometimes Uncle Dimitri pulled out his handkerchief. He took Aunt Myra's hand, and Grandpa Theo took Grandma's hand. Then they did the snake dance. We all joined hands and lined up behind them. We wound in and out, dancing the slow snake dance.



Then Grandpa Theo opened the piano. Everyone was quiet. "Phoebe," he called to me, "please turn the pages for us."

Grandpa Theo sat down with one of his pupils. They played wonderful music together, while I turned the pages. I was learning to play the piano with Grandpa Theo, so that someday I would be ready to play a duet with him.

But then things changed. I knew something was wrong when Grandpa didn't have music parties very often. Grandpa Theo didn't sing and he didn't dance. His pupils played duets without him. When the parties stopped for good, I knew something was really wrong. Later, even my piano lessons stopped.



Grandpa Theo didn't like to talk about it. But I knew he had trouble hearing. If he didn't watch me when I talked, he sometimes wouldn't even answer me. Other times he wouldn't laugh when I said something funny.



He turned the radio on too loudly. People had to shout when they wanted to talk to him. I had to pat his shoulder to get him to look at me when I talked. But he just didn't talk with me very much any more.

Whenever we visited Grandpa Theo, my mother would say, "Papa, why don't you go get a hearing test? Maybe you need a hearing aid."

But Grandpa wouldn't go. He wouldn't listen to her. One day, when we were visiting, my mother told him again to get a hearing test.

Grandpa Theo said, "I have always taken care of myself. I'll go on taking care of myself, too. Anyway, why should I look foolish?"

"You wouldn't look foolish, Papa," my mother said. "It's not foolish to hear better." But Grandpa didn't hear her. He went out to the garden to be alone.

I felt very sad. "I wish Grandpa Theo could hear better," I told my mother. "I really miss all the things we used to do together."

"Why don't you go out and tell him that, Phoebe?" my mother asked.



looking up at the pretty leaves. I patted his shoulder. He looked at me.

"Grandpa Theo, I really miss our talks and your songs and your parties. I miss my piano lessons, too. Maybe a hearing aid would help you hear better, and we could do those things again. Why won't you even try?"

Grandpa Theo stared at me. It was so quiet in the garden that I could hear a leaf fall from the tree.

"Maybe you're right, Phoebe," he said slowly. "I could try. I guess I was thinking only of myself." Then he smiled at me and took my hand. "Are you still playing the piano?" he asked.

"Yes, Grandpa Theo, but it's not the same."

"Do you remember to play one hand at a time, and then both hands together?"

"Yes, Grandpa Theo."

"Do you play each piece slowly at first?" he asked.

"Sometimes," I said, "but I like to play fast."

"Yes, you play well," Grandpa Theo said. "You should be ready for a duet soon."

Something inside me jumped. For a minute I couldn't say a thing. I just looked at Grandpa Theo.

"Phoebe," said Grandpa Theo, "I miss your lessons, too. I just wasn't thinking about the important things. But now I'm going to get a hearing test, and I'd like you to come with me."

"Oh, Grandpa Theo!" I shouted, and I gave him a big hug. I felt like singing.

"If a hearing aid can help," he said, "you shall play your first duet soon."

