

MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 4

Steelpan music makes my heart happy. It's like sunshine in a musical note! So, when my school announced a talent competition, I knew exactly what I wanted to do. I wanted to play my tenor pan. The competition was a big deal. Students were going to sing, dance, tell jokes, and even do magic tricks. I knew I had to bring my A-game and was really excited to show off my skills to everyone.

The day of the competition finally arrived. Our school hall was buzzing with people. My hands felt a bit sweaty as I awaited my turn backstage. I could hear the clapping and cheering for the other performers. My tummy felt like it had butterflies doing summersaults. Finally, Mr. Joseph, the music teacher, called my name. I took a deep breath and walked onto the stage with my shiny tenor pan. The bright lights made it sparkle. I could see my family and my friends in the audience, smiling and waving. That made me feel a little braver.

I got my mallets ready and looked out at the crowd. I planned and practiced daily to play “Young Bredda – Greatest Bend Over,” a really lively tune that everyone knew and would instantly recognize. As I started to play, the sound of the steelpan filled the hall. The notes rang out, happy and bright, and the audience began singing along. My fingers moved across the pan, hitting each note just right. When I finished the song, there was a moment of silence, and then the whole hall erupted in applause! People were clapping and cheering, and some were even whistling. I felt a huge smile spread across my face. It felt amazing! I took a bow and walked off the stage.

I didn't win the competition. A girl who sang beautifully did, but it didn't even matter. I had shared my passion for the steelpan with everyone, and they seemed to love it too. After my performance, lots of students came up to me to ask about the steelpan, and some even said they wanted to learn how to play.

That day, I learned that sharing what you love is even better than winning. The sound of the steelpan made people happy, and that made me the happiest of all. It was a day I'll never forget. A day when my steelpan and I brought a little bit of Trinidad sunshine to our school's hall.

