



# MUSIC IN WORDS



Stories Inspired by: *Four Sea Interludes, mvt. 4 "Storm"*

Composer: Benjamin Britten

## Third Grade

### FIRST PLACE WINNER

Pilo L. – St. Mary's Catholic School

In our music class, we listened to "Storm" by Benjamin Britten. He was an English composer born in 1913, and he wrote storm in 1945. Storm is in a very minor key. It's a scary song that reminds me of a storm in the middle of the sea. It was written for an opera, but it's a great piece of music to listen to all by itself.

Since the mood of "Storm" is minor and scary, my story will happen on a boat, where storm comes and sweeps the boat. It starts with me sailing off in a little boat from Florida to the beaches of Mexico when suddenly a huge storm hits and my boat is rocked furiously back and forth. A huge wave hits the boat, sending it back rapidly. Then a huge bolt of lightning hits the sail, tearing it off into the ocean.

More lightning bolts strike the sea, like many giant drums that start banging! Boom!! Boom!! Then, the wind screeches like many violins. The boat gets rocked and rocked until a ray of sunshine hits my face. The gray clouds disappear and I see a rainbow shining through the clouds, and I think the storm is over. But right then, I see the rainbow disappear, I know the storm is back.

The boat suddenly capsizes and I fall into the ocean and struggle to stay afloat.

I enjoyed listening to this piece of music. It helped me imagine quite an adventure! After that, I think I need some very calm music!

### SECOND PLACE WINNER

Thorin C. – St. Mary's Catholic School

Today in music class, we listened to a piece called "Storm" by Benjamin Britten. He was an English composer. He wrote it in 1945. Storm is loud and suspenseful and was written for an opera.

The tempo of "Storm" is speeding, and so my story is speeding too. It happens outside. Second the dynamics of the piece are loud, so my story happens in the middle of a tornado. Third, the instruments like cymbals and banging drums sound like lightening and thunder.

Also, the thundering brass makes me think of cars, boulders and metal flying. As I close my eyes and listen, I am walking down the street in Costa Rica, which is somewhere I have wanted to go for a long time. But I did not know a tornado like this was coming. I see myself taking a siesta on the side of the street. And then I hear cymbals and drums and it sounds like hail. It wakes me up! I get hit in the head with big hailstones. Then someone pulls me under an umbrella and just in time. But then suddenly, the tornado tears through the umbrella. "Storm" is like that-the rain keeps coming and there's not really a resolution.

I appreciated listening to this music. It made me feel like I was on a trip to another country. Next time I want to listen to my inner music and think about an ocean storm.

## THIRD PLACE WINNER

Hadley A. – St. Mary's Catholic School

In music class, we listened to a piece, "Storm", by Benjamin Britten. He was a composer and good cricket player. He wrote "Storm" in 1945. The piece is quick like a racing heartbeat. It was short and has parts that are sad, mad, even happy.

Every story has a setting and that includes "Storm". My story takes place outside. It happens in the middle of a forest when there's a wildfire but not started on purpose. I was taking a walk in the forest, and I looked up and realized there was a fire nearby. There were animals running fast. The sound of violins makes me think how my heart was beating harder than ever before. My eyes were burning. My body felt wounded. I didn't know where I was. I lost my track of where I was and crashed into things, sounding like cymbals and tubas.

I was running and running faster than ever before, my heart beating like a timpani. I felt like the fire was chasing me. I didn't know what was next. I thought it was the end until I saw lights. Then I realized it was a helicopter coming for me when it landed. I got on and I was saved.

I liked listening to "Storm". It made me think I was in a dangerous forest. I want to listen to music with a different tempo so I can imagine a story about someone who has a heart attack but survives.

## HONORABLE MENTION WINNER

Hazel W. – St. Mary's Catholic School

In my music class, we listened to "Storm" by Benjamin Britten. He was an English writer. He was 65 when he died. "Storm" is sad, scary and nervous. It was written to be for an opera.

The music makes me think the story will be sad. "Storm" is a quick, scary sad song. It makes me feel like I'm inside my worst nightmare. When it finally gets calm. I feel safe inside.

My story starts in Hurricane Katrina. As I start to daydream, I am rocking on my porch. I feel bad winds on my cheeks. As I put my sweater on, I see a hurricane! Then, my house breaks down. A tornado is here! After the tornado, things are suddenly calm. But then it starts to hail, and it's hail the size of golf balls! I lose everything I own and love.

The violins are my heart racing. The instruments make me feel a lot of things. The trumpets make me feel like I'm dead. The drums make me feel worried.

An hour later. It's over!

I enjoyed listening to "Storm" because it took me on an adventure. I would like to listen to angel choirs next time because I want to imagine a story about heaven. I like music written in a major key because it makes me happy!

## FINALIST

Erin A. – St. Mary's Catholic School

Today in class, we listened to "Storm" by Benjamin Britten. He was an English composer. He wrote storm in 1945. It written for an opera, and it must be telling a scary story from the way it sounds.

"Storm" has a very minor mood, a racing tempo, and loud dynamics. Sometimes it's soft, but there are violins basses and tubas that make a lot of noise. It is good music for a storm.

In my story. I'm in a forest there's a wildfire described in music. At the beginning, the fire starts with a boom. It scares me to see that the fire is racing. I am running until I think that the fire is gone. When I look back. I cannot tell, so I yell. Firefighters come and stop the fire. At the end, everything slows down and the storm is gone. Even better, I am safe.

The music helps me think of that story. I like listening to "Storm". Next time I want to listen to something about nature, so I can imagine a story about the wilderness. It would be fun to write about the music of nature because I like the woods and thinking about the natural world.

## FINALIST

Olivia H. – St. Mary's Catholic School

In music class, we listened to "Storm" by Benjamin Britten. He was an English composer or an English writer who loved music. Storm is an exciting, energetic song that intensifies the more you listen. It is short and written for the purpose of those who love to enjoy music.

The mood of "Storm" is mostly tense with little bits of calm. The tempo is racing, like inside an arena. It is loud at parts and soft at places. The instruments I hear are violins, trombones, drums and piano. I will be fighting in an arena in the middle of a snowstorm. I have to battle a lion in France. My eyes start to water and my stomach feels queasy. I hear the sound of a lion roaring in my ears. I smell sweat and chicken. Then I knock out the lion with all my strength.

The music suggests that I faint after I deliver the final blow to the lion. I wake up back at my house and find out that I was in a coma for eight months. I find out that I had won the fight and got \$700! I was as tired as a cat can be. My life was great, but my life is coming to an end. Then I remembered that I have medicine, and so I drank it. I was healed and I would become a champion!

I liked listening to storm. It took me to a faraway place and time. Next time I want to listen to Taylor Swift so I can imagine a story about becoming a famous singer and making new songs.

## FINALIST

Eva W. – Davis Elementary School

This little boy is really scared. To the point where he is crying. He feels like something is trying to hurt him, something that is not normal. That thing is trying to make him feel like something he does not want to feel. This boy is captured by that horrible monster in his head, and he is starting to have demons in his head. The monster can be feeling something that makes him want to hurt kids and grown ups. But the scared boy talked to the monster and so the monster would calm down a little so he would not hurt people and so the people would not be so scared of him, so he started to be nice and respect the people. So, people started to appreciate him.

## FINALIST

Marleigh W. – Davis Elementary School

When I listened to the music it made me think a person at sea but then comes a storm and it also makes me feel nervous and just a bit scared for the person who is sailing. But when I heard the calm music it made me feel relaxed and happy it was like the storm went away. Then the rough music comes back and I feel anxious and upset again. That is what I feel when I listen to the music.

# Fourth Grade

## FIRST PLACE WINNER

Emma P. – Burns Elementary School

One day there was a little blue boat in the middle of the gorgeous ocean. There was a sailor and her friends going on a fishing trip. It was a beautiful day and it was pleasant and calm. Soon they reached the large fishing spot and started to fish right away.

All of a sudden there was a huge raging thunderstorm on the horizon. The sailor knew there was a giant storm coming rapidly. The clouds turned gray and black. The sailor's friends saw the storm and were panicking but the sailor stayed calm and started to move the tiny ship away from the dark storm clouds. The powerful storm hits them with all its might. The wind whipped the boat one way and then the other way. It was back and forth. The sailor and her friends were slipping and sliding. It was crazy. The storm sucked the little boat right up.

As quickly as the storm started it stopped. The friends thought the storm was over but the captain knew better. There was a second part of the storm coming. They were in the eye of the storm.

Boom!!! Bang!! The storm was back. It was even bigger and more fierce than before. There was a massive wave right in front of the small boat. The boat went right on the humongous wave. The enormous wave was so big and the boat was so tiny. The boat tipped upside down. All of the sailor's friends screamed but the sailor stood still holding tight to the wheel. Then the little boat, the sailor's friends and the sailor were never seen again.

## SECOND PLACE WINNER

Laney C. – Burns Elementary School

The thunder was rumbling  
The wind was roaring  
The storm got worse  
The sailors fought the waves

The storm calmed  
Then worsened

Then was calm again  
All was fine  
They survived

Then it struck  
The sailors tumbled  
To the floor  
The boat rocked suddenly  
The waves crashed against the ship  
It wasn't over  
The storm wasn't done  
The worst hadn't started yet

Finally, it passed  
They celebrated  
But was it truly gone?  
They waited

It was!  
All was finally good  
All was peaceful

### THIRD PLACE WINNER

Ellie R. – St. Mary's Catholic School

In our music class, we listened to storm by Benjamin Britten. He was British and born in England. "Storm" is a loud, booming, dynamic song!

The mood of the song is very unsettling. The dynamics are surprising and loud. This is a powerful song, with the sounds of loud crashing and running. My story will take place on a tall mountain on a snowy day.

I grab my gear and start my way up the mountain. The snow falls faster and the air grows colder each second. I push my way up while the snow pushes against me! The wind whistles! I try to take a different route, but the snow falls against me. Eventually, after awhile, I get to the top!

The music slows down, and I imagine that I grab my camera and am about to take a picture when BOOM! The music speeds up again, the snow pushes me over the mountain! I grab on to the edge of the cliff and pull myself up while struggling! What an adventure! Then, the music gets calm. Whoosh! The music is once again scary and I fall. Then the music stops.

I liked listening to "Storm". I'd prefer listening to calm music next time so I could imagine a swan in a pond gently striding along.

### HONORABLE MENTION WINNER

Mary R. – St. Mary's Catholic School

In music class today, we heard a song called "Storm" by Benjamin Britten. He was born in England and he was British.

"Boom boom!" the drums thunder in the sea. The big sea waves crash on the boat. The boat is rocking like crazy. Then I suddenly release the boat, and now it's spinning, and then my friend Amelia points out a tall skinny rock. I grab the rope and pull us, with our boat, out of the hurricane. We get out of the storm. As Amelia and I lie on that boat, I smell the ocean and taste salt water. As I open my eyes, I see clouds forming so I wake up. Amelia and I start sailing for the storm is close, only a mile away. We see lightning. We hear drums as thunder rolls. We see an island with a rock cave. I try to tie up the boat right as it starts pouring and lightning starts crashing.

We head to the cave on the island during a huge lightning strike. The lightning strikes the rock and I fall on my ankle. It hurts and I realize I broke it so I couldn't walk. I find a stick and used it as a crutch, and I wrap some leaves around it like a boot. Still, it's pouring outside! Amelia and I are cold, wet, and hungry. I point out a lizard, so I get some sticks and rub them together, but it doesn't work. Just then, a lightning bolt burns a hole in the rock ceiling! It starts a fire, which goes out because air comes through the hole and puts it out. We are so sad that we feel we could die!

Just then, we hear a really fast "Boom, boom!" We fear it's more thunder, but thank goodness it's a helicopter. We are saved!

I enjoyed listening to "Storm" because it took me on an adventure of imagination. I'd like to listen to country music next time because I'd like to imagine a story about fairies in a world of imagination, where whatever you wish just pops up!

## FINALIST

Charity C. – Albin Elementary School

It feels like at the beginning lightning is coming, big waves are crashing and the boat is about to flip over and the people are screaming like trumpets. The drum made me feel like the big BOOMS are coming at you.

In the middle of the song it is so calm and safe, the flutes and the violins make you feel that way. And now you can go home safely without getting hurt. But the clouds come back and your boat will not start. And there are not people in the lake to help you get back. The boat flips and turns. What are you going to do? The end was a crash and the storm was over. The people came home safe.

## FINALIST

Breccan C. – Davis Elementary School

In December **2014** fishers aboard their boat hoping to catch a lot of fish. They look up at the skies and see dark clouds rolling in. They're decide to go out to sea in hopes they miss the storm. As there going a big wave hits them off the boat. As they're trying to swim back to the boat, they see something moving in the water. They start swimming faster to the boat, before being eaten by what they think is a vicious shark.

As the fisherman are boarding the boat they look into the water and see a school of sharks surrounding the boat. The waves are slamming into the side of the boat. Bringing the sharks to the ledges. They're were wondering if they will ever make it back home. As there faced with the blood hungry sharks. the fear of the unknown running down our spines.

The seas quickly become calm. And the sharks disappear. As they look up at the sky, they stare at the moon with gratefulness that they made it back to the boat safely. They turn the boat around to go back home. As they're almost home the sharks come back.

## FINALIST

Paxton G. – Davis Elementary School

It was a stormy night in the north ocean. There was a ship with three people, and they were approaching the eye of a storm. Hurricane winds, heavy rain, and crashing waves left the people fighting for their lives.

In the distance they saw a big shadow. Then it disappeared. They were all so frightened by the storm, were the shadows part of their imagination? The waves were vicious but for a few brief moments the storm calmed, and the crew thought they were in the clear. When suddenly one of the crew members saw a huge shadow moving toward the ship and it disappeared again.

Suddenly, the ship started rocking rapidly and they all got worried. The crew saw tentacles reaching out of the water and then from the depths rose multiple massive octopuses. The crew yelled for the octopuses to go away, and they tried to fight the octopuses but they were no match for the enemy. The octopuses wrapped their tentacles around the ship and pulled it down plop, plop, plop below the water. The ship and crew were never recovered. The end.

## FINALIST

Hazel H. – Davis Elementary School

There once was a fisherman that was out at sea when a huge storm came in! He was tossed and turned by the waves. The rain pelted his face. Then he saw a huge shadow in the water. BAM!!! Suddenly he was splashed by a huge wave. He scanned the water and he saw a glimpse of silver. "Dolphins!" he said. He sailed his ship closer and closer. He saw the dolphin but it was hurt. He rescued it and put it in a tub and sailed home. When he got home he gave it to the aquarium. They were so happy. They thanked him so much. They gave him money but he refused. Then he went back to his boat and set off. For the rest of his life he helped hurt animals on land and sea. THE END.

## FINALIST

Jaxon H. – Burns Elementary School

I think the composer thought that a nerve-wracking song would help you think that the sailors won't live. They thought that the storm passed, but it did not. It stopped, then went on again and again, until it just kept going.

Then it stopped, then it hit. The sailors just kept on fighting it and fighting it, and their arms burned!!! A one hundred foot wave came and hit them.

They survived and then they found land, and they got food and water since their boat was destroyed. Then they got a bigger boat. They went back to sea to go to their island, and went home to see their families.

## FINALIST

Liam H. – Albin Elementary School

I am on a boat in the Gulf of Mexico watching a hurricane and it gets really windy all of a sudden (flutes) and we try to turn on the engine but it fails to start. While we freak out, we wait for hours getting drenched by water.

Finally it becomes peaceful again (violin). It stays that way for half an hour but suddenly the wind picks up again. We try the engine and it sputters to life. As we made our way through the horrific sounds of thunder (drums) as we got out of the boat the tornado sirens wail (trumpets) and we sped home in our cars.

## FINALIST

Hattie H. – Burns Elementary School

The music made me feel like there were a lot of tragic things going on. The drums made me think that the storm was getting intense. The strings made me think about the wind and the sailors panicking. The piccolo made me think about the panic and hope. The harp was on the calm side, and made me know that the storm had stopped.

Listening to this song was kind of fun because it made you question what was going to happen. I enjoyed it alot because it was so intense, like the scary, excited way you feel before a concert. I thought it was going to get louder and louder, but it built up and then dropped.

## FINALIST

Amelia K. – St. Mary's Catholic School

In our music class today, we listened to "Storm" by Benjamin Britten. He was British. "Storm" is a music that sounds like it's in the middle of a storm. It was written for an opera.

The mood of "Storm" is mainly minor. But every once in a while, it becomes major for a few seconds. The tempo was fast in the beginning and then slower in the middle. Then, at the very end, it is racing.

In my story, my friend Mary and I are at the beach all by ourselves, when a huge earthquake and hurricane occur. We run and run, trying to get away from the storm that is twice the size we are! We are lost, running down random streets. It's very windy and wet outside. We are lost because it's foggy and we cannot read the street signs. It's a good thing we are in our swimsuits because of the rain, but we're freezing cold! We think we might almost be home.

We finally reach the house! We dry off, and then we have a cup of hot cocoa as the storm ends. We live happily ever after, of course.

I liked listening to "Storm" because it took me on an adventure. For my next listening adventure, I'd like to listen to 80's disco music so I can imagine a dance party with my family and friends!

## FINALIST

MaKayla L. – Burns Elementary School

One nice and sunny day we were going fishing when we saw a big storm coming in from a short distance. Two minutes later we were in the middle of the storm. Everybody was screaming. The waves were putting water in the boat. Waves were making us wet. Everybody was screaming. Until the last wave it went calm, But that is not the end of the story. We saw that we were going to be in the hugest wave we've ever seen. We tried to turn around but got caught in the wave. And we tipped.

After we tipped water was coming into the boat! All of us knew what was going to happen. When the boat was about to be sunk we all held our breath and said goodbye to each other. A couple weeks later the ship that was in the middle of the sea washed up on shore. The people that found it looked inside, saw a disk and saw bones and clothes. They played the disk and played it and saw what happened.

## FINALIST

Joseph R. – St. Mary's Catholic School

In music class today, we listened to "Storm" by Benjamin Britten. He was British. He was also a musician. This is a song that he made for an opera.

My story will probably happen in a haunted forest. Who would be in the story? Well, of course it would be my friends and I, and we would be running from a giant monster. Why? Well because the music sounds active and scary, in a minor key. What happens in my story is my friends and I come across a giant monster who chases us so we run through the forest. Yes, I can tie it to an exact moment of the music when I see the dark forest and the big monster. I hear the monster stomping. I feel the twisted vines under my feet and I smell the smoke and fire from the monster's mouth. I can taste the smoke and dust!

Anyway, while myself, Tyler, and Zayvier are running through the jungle, we aren't playing attention and we run off a cliff! So now, we're falling down, down, down, down into a swamp!! Then, the monster does the silliest and dumbest thing ever. He jumps off the cliff and lands in the swamp with us!



Luckily, we get out of the swamp in time, and I think we were just lucky because the monster... uh, well, he died in the mud. My friends and I found a way out of the jungle. However, after all that happened, we were in the hospital for at least two years! Still, I'm just glad it's over!

## FINALIST

Tyler R. – St. Mary's Catholic School

In music class today, we listened to "Storm" by Benjamin Britten. He was English, and he was born in England. "Storm" is music for an opera.

The mood for the storm is minor because of the dramatic tone. It feels like I am in a hurricane in the middle of the ocean. I'm just sailing the seas in my very own boat. Then, suddenly, the waves are crashing into my boat, almost tearing it apart. And then a hurricane comes out of nowhere. Then the hurricane starts to die down. But the wind blows even harder, and I go into all sorts of directions in my sailboat.

Then surprisingly, I fall into an abandoned island. I am knocked out for four days.

I liked listening to storm because it took me on an adventure. I would like to listen to rap music next time so I could imagine a story about football. The reason why I would like to imagine a story about football is because it is my favorite sport!

## FINALIST

Ava S. – Albin Elementary School

When the music is really intense at the beginning, it sounds like the storm is right behind the tourists on the boat. When all the brass instruments play rapidly, it sounds like the tourists are screaming and speeding up the boat trying to get to safety. But the boat isn't fast enough for the storm.

When the music stops and plays intensely again, it sounds like the waves and wind pick up and flip the boat over, but they are wearing life jackets. Then the soft music comes in, and it sounds like the storm is gone for now. The music gets intense again, and when all the percussion plays together it's like the storm is back. Then when the soft music plays, it's like the storm is gone completely.

## FINALIST

Angela S. – St. Mary's Catholic School

This afternoon in music class, we listened to "Storm" by Benjamin Britten. He was born in England and he was British. "Storm" is music for an opera.

As I listen, I hear minor and then I hear major. There is a huge chase between the cheetah and the unicorn going on in the forest. Then there's a beautiful part. A rainbow appears, but then it closes before the unicorn can reach it. The unicorn feels a nip on his tail and knows it's the end until she spots an emergency barber shop and calls for help! A barber comes with a spear and scissors and cuts the unicorn's tail. Then, the barber spears the cheetah. Finally, the barber gives the unicorn a short haircut and styles it cute.

In conclusion, I enjoyed listening to "Storm". Next time., I'd like to listen to some American Girl doll music because it would be fun imagining I am an American Girl doll!