

Piano in Your Mouth

William was lazy when it came to brushing his teeth. Sometimes he would just put some toothpaste on his finger and run it over his teeth a couple of times.

His sister Lucy saw it and said,

“You know, William, if you don’t brush your teeth, half of them will fall out pretty soon and your mouth will look like a piano!”

“What do you mean, a piano?” William didn’t understand.

“Well, the empty holes with no teeth are like black keys and teeth are like white keys. And if you have holes and teeth alternately, then it’s like a piano, with black and white keys alternately.”

“So what!” William said, grinning to his sister with his best pig face, and went to bed.

“A piano?” he thought to himself, turning to his side. All of a sudden, he found himself in a big concert hall. It was full of people and he was standing onstage.

“Now, Steve will perform an unforgettable piano piece, playing on William’s teeth,” the man in a black suit said into the microphone.

Steve was the boy who had the dirtiest hands in William’s kindergarten group. He probably never washed his hands. And now the same Steve came onstage, picked his nose and ears, put his hand in his pants and scratched his bum. Then he took his hand out and stepped to William.

“Well, open your mouth then!” Steve reached out his stinking hand towards William’s mouth.

“No!” William screamed and tried to keep Steve’s hand away from his mouth.



Suddenly the concert hall with the crowd and Steve disappeared. William found himself at kindergarten and they were learning to play the xylophone. Xylophone is a musical instrument with wooden bars, which looks a bit like the piano. You have to strike the bars with a wooden

mallet. At first, everyone was playing on their own xylophone but in a little while, somebody said that they should also try how it felt playing on William's xylophone.

The kids all queued up to William and started playing on his teeth. William couldn't shut his mouth – it was as if he'd been bewitched.

Once all the kids in the group had played many pretty pieces on his teeth, William's head was rumbling pretty hard. As he couldn't shut his mouth, he was finally forced to run out of the building with his mouth open.

But the front door didn't lead outside but to a classroom where pupils were clicking with their pencils. Only now could William close his mouth.

“See, William is here!” someone shouted. The children gathered around William and one girl stretched his mouth wide open. Another girl put the pencil in his mouth so that it went in from one hole and came out from another.

“See, he doesn't even need to open his mouth to have a pencil in his mouth!”

“He's our new pencil case!” a freckled girl with a thick pigtail said happily.

Then the classroom and the children disappeared.

William was back in his bed and felt a strange taste in his mouth. He got out of bed, went to the bathroom and brushed his teeth properly.

When he lied down again and closed his eyes, he found himself back in the concert hall, but this time, it was Steve onstage and William with his sparkling smile was sitting in the front row.



Steve had just scratched his bum and was performing an ugly-sounding piece on his sparse teeth, with the very same fingers. The whole audience was laughing and William was laughing with them. It was so much fun!

