

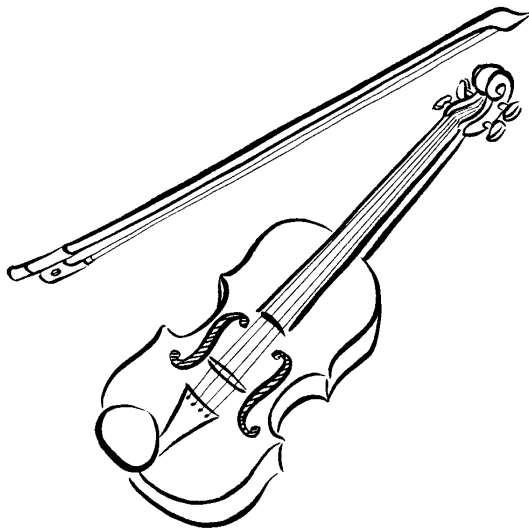
# Family Times

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Summary

### Yingtao Finds Coming to America Rough Going

Starting a new school in the middle of the year is bad enough. But imagine starting a new school in a new country, where it seems everything is different, and you don't know enough English to make friends. Add to that the fact that your violin-playing is a family joke, and you have Yingtao's life. With three strikes against him, how can Yingtao adjust to life in America?



## Activity

**Matthew's Story.** Ask your child to tell you the story of Yingtao's early days in his new school from the point of view of Matthew, Yingtao's new friend.

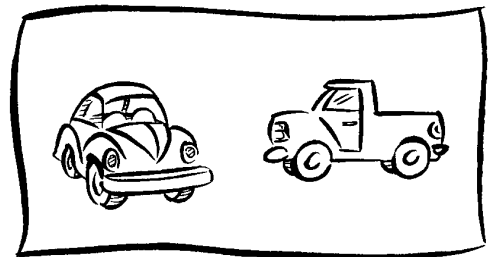
## Reading Skills

### Compare and Contrast

When authors write about two or more characters, places, events, or situations, they often want you to compare and contrast them.

- ❖ **Compare** means telling how two or more things are alike.
- ❖ **Contrast** means telling how they are different.

One way Yingtao and Matthew are alike is that they are both in the orchestra. This is a comparison. One way they are different is in the way they eat. Yingtao has been using chopsticks since he was two. Matthew had never used them. This is a contrast.



## Activity

**Side by Side.** Cut out pictures of two landscapes, two cars, two people, two houses, and so on. Paste them next to each other on a sheet of paper. Tell how they are alike and how they are different.

# Family Times

## Tested Vocabulary

### Words to Know

Knowing the meanings of these words is important to reading “Yingtao’s New Friend.” Practice using these words to learn their meanings.

**instruments** devices for producing musical sounds

**measures** bars of music

**orchestra** the musicians playing at a concert, opera, or play

**rehearsal** practice to prepare for public performance

**triangle** musical instrument

## Grammar

### Declarative and Interrogative Sentences

A sentence that tells something is a **statement**. Another name for it is a **declarative sentence** because it declares, or tells, something. It ends with a period.

**Yingtao played the violin badly.**

A sentence that asks something is a **question**. Another name for it is an **interrogative sentence**. It ends with a question mark.

**Do you play the trombone?**

### Activity

**Questions and Answers.** Ask a family member to ask you questions. Change the questions into statements using as many of the words from the question as possible.

## Tested Spelling Words

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