

UNIT 2 Facing Challenges Nonfiction Connection



**BECOMING
A COMPOSER**

WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Millions of people around the world live with crippling disabilities that keep them from living life to its fullest, to a smaller or larger degree.

Can you think of anyone who has a disability but is extraordinarily talented?
Have you or someone you know ever exceeded the expectations of others?

Take a minute to answer in the notebook.





SAVANTS

Savant syndrome is a rare condition in which persons with various developmental disorders, including autism, some have amazing abilities. The condition can be congenital or can be acquired later in childhood.

Hikari Oe, whose name means “light” in Japanese, was born with a serious brain disorder. The surgery that corrected the condition interfered with his ability to think. In addition, he was diagnosed with autism, a disorder which affects the development of social interaction and communication skills.

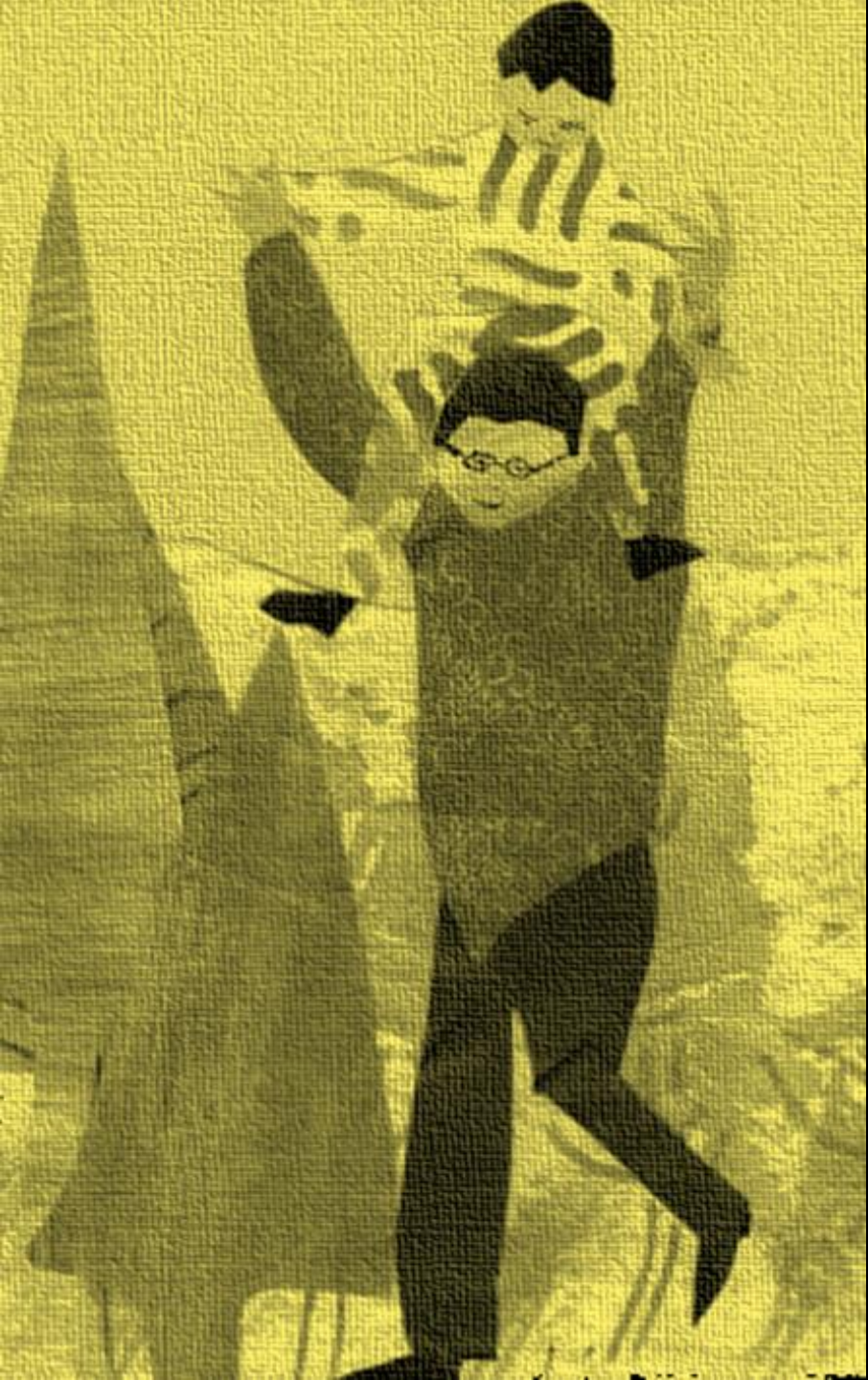
THE LOVE OF MUSIC

“Becoming a Composer”, the selection you’ll read today, is from Lindsley Cameron’s book *The Music of Light* (1998), a biography of Hikari Oe, the son of the famous Japanese author Kenzaburo Oe and his wife Yukari. Despite his disabilities, Hikari showed an extraordinary talent for music. His parents encouraged this talent, and today Hikari is a world-famous composer.





Let's take a few minutes to enjoy Hikari's *Favorite Waltz Dance*.



LITERARY CONCEPT

Biography

Refers to the story of a person's life written by someone other than the subject of the work. Lindsley Cameron wrote this biography about Hikari Oe. This selection focuses on Hikari's love of music and how he learned to compose it.

LITERARY SKILL

Comparison Clues

A context clue that uses a comparison is the opposite of a contrast clue described in the first selection.

For comparison clues, surrounding words are similar or comparable to the meaning of the unfamiliar word. Words and phrases that indicate this type of clue include such as, like, also, similarly, just as, and in the same way.



ASSESSMENT

After reading pgs. 136-142, in your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Biography** - How has Cameron interwoven the quotations from Hikari's mother, teacher, and father into the selection? How might the biography have been different if Cameron had known the Oe family when Hikari was born?



Jim Soto © 2022