

Early Level 3 Fiction – The Rules

“Tāviviki, hurry up. The shoppers are coming,” Uncle Joe called.

Matoria hurried. He took a deep breath and tucked his violin under his chin. Slowly, he drew the bow away from his body and began playing “Yellow Bird”, his mum’s favourite song.

Matoria hummed as he played, hearing the words in his head. *Yellow bird, up high in banana tree.* Some shoppers stopped to listen. Others stopped just long enough to throw coins into Matoria’s case. Each clink made him smile.

At the end of the song, Uncle Joe went back to work. He’d said having a busker right outside his shop was good for business and he would match Matoria’s earnings dollar for dollar. More importantly, he’d promised to keep Matoria’s busking a secret. Uncle Joe didn’t know about the orchestra’s rules, and Matoria wasn’t about to fill him in:

1. Don’t take your instrument out of the house except for rehearsals and concerts.
2. Don’t let other people play your instrument.
3. Keep your instrument in a safe place.

Matoria busked all morning. He played every tune he knew.