

A Rising Star

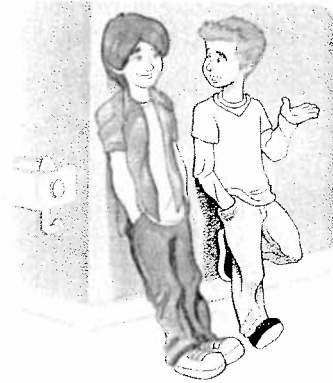
As 20 nervous students crowded around, the drama teacher taped a sheet of paper to the bulletin board by the auditorium door. It was the cast list for the school play. Jake scanned the list for his name, but it wasn't there. Instead, he saw his best friend's name at the top of the list. "Look, Dan!" Jake exclaimed. "You got the main part. You're going to be the star of the play!"

Dan looked apprehensive. He gulped and glanced up at the drama teacher. "I'm not sure that I'm ready for such a big role, Mr. Thompson," he said. "I'm not confident that I can learn all those lines in time." Mr. Thompson gave Dan a reassuring pat on the back. Then he raised his hands and motioned for silence.

"I know not everyone got a speaking part and some of you are disappointed, but I have jobs for everyone," Mr. Thompson told the students. "We'll need people to work on sets, costumes, lights, sound, and publicity. Think about what you'd like to do, and we'll discuss it at tomorrow's rehearsal."

In all the commotion, Dan hadn't noticed Jake slink away. He found him around the corner, leaning against the auditorium wall. Jake was staring glumly at his feet. "I'm sorry, Jake," Dan said. "You deserve that part a lot more than I do. You're better at memorizing lines than I am, and you're a better actor, too."

Jake shrugged and forced himself to smile. "It's okay," he replied. "I watched you at the audition, and you did a fantastic job. You'll be terrific! And don't worry—I'll help you learn your lines. We can practice during lunch and recess every day." Dan smiled and nodded appreciatively. With the help of his best friend, maybe he really could pull this off!



MONDAY

Use the words from the story to fill in the blanks.

apprehensive

audition

confident

reassuring

rehearsal

1. We will wear our costumes at the dress _____ for the play.
2. I studied all weekend, so I am _____ that I will pass the test.
3. I was nervous about the big math test, but Mom gave me a _____ hug and told me that I would do great.
4. Ali really wants to be in the talent show, so she's going to sing her favorite song at the _____.
5. Some people are _____ about going to the dentist, but there is no reason to be afraid.

TUESDAY

What "rising star" does the title of this story refer to? Explain why.

WEDNESDAY

Choose the correct answer.

1. What genre of fiction is this story?

(A) historical fiction

(C) fable

(B) science fiction

(D) realistic fiction

2. What is the setting of this story?

(A) a theater

(C) a school

(B) Dan's house

(D) Jake's house

3. Who is Mr. Thompson?

(A) the drama teacher

(C) Jake's coach

(B) Dan's father

(D) The passage doesn't say.

THURSDAY

Write B if it happens before the story takes place. Write D if it happens during the story. Write A if it happens after the story takes place.

- _____ Jake feels bad because he didn't get a role in the play.
- _____ Dan does a great job acting in the play, and Jake is very proud of him.
- _____ Dan learns that he got the lead role in the school play.
- _____ Auditions are held for the school play.
- _____ Jake promises to help Dan memorize his lines.

FRIDAY

Who do you think should have gotten the role? Explain your answer.
