

Class-V

ENGLISH



Holiday Musical Blues

by Kelly Hashway



Lisa walked into the chorus room with a smile on her face. The class was auditioning for parts in the holiday musical. Lisa loved to sing and this was her chance to get one of the lead roles.

Mr. Beckman passed out lyrics for the auditions. Lisa studied the song, already singing quietly to herself.

Mr. Beckman tapped his baton on the music stand at the front of the room. "I know you're all excited to audition, but before we do I have an announcement."

Lisa sat up straight. *Was there going to be a solo?*

"This year we are opening and closing the show with a very special performance by a select number of students," Mr. Beckman said.

Lisa squeezed the sheet music in her hands. It wasn't a solo performance, but it was still a chance to be featured as one of the best singers.

"These individuals will be dressed in distinctive costumes and will set the stage for the rest of the show," Mr. Beckman continued.

Lisa leaned forward, eager to hear more.

"I've already selected the students who will be part of this featured act," Mr. Beckman said. "Brandon, Adrianna, Tina, Colin, Derek, and Lisa, would you come up front please?"

"Yes!" Lisa yelled, rushing to the front of the room.

Mr. Beckman removed a costume from the supply closet. "You six will be our wooden soldiers!"

Lisa stared at the huge hat complete with a chinstrap. "No one is going to recognize us wearing those!"

"Don't worry, Lisa. You're names will be listed in the program under 'Wooden Soldiers,'" Mr. Beckman said.

"But even my own parents won't be able to tell which soldier is me!"

"Lisa, this is a very special honor," Mr. Beckman said. "I selected the top students in the class to open the show for us. You'll need to learn a special march and dance, but if you don't want to be a soldier, I can assign the part to someone else."



Lisa saw a few of her classmates' eyes widen at the thought of taking her place. Maybe being a soldier was a good thing. It wasn't what Lisa had in mind, but Mr. Beckman had chosen her, and she wasn't going to let him down.

"Can we start practicing our march?" Lisa asked.

Mr. Beckman smiled. "Yes. I'll teach you the march while the rest of the class practices for their auditions."

"Sounds great," Lisa said.

Note from the Author

Kelly Hashway

This is actually based on a true story from when I was in third grade. I was a wooden soldier in our holiday musical, and I wasn't exactly happy about it at first. I hope you enjoyed it.

Name: _____

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1. Why was Lisa in the chorus room?
 - a. She was in music class.
 - b. She was watching the school's holiday musical.
 - c. She wanted to audition for a part in the school musical.
 - d. She wanted to convince Mr. Beckman that she should be a soldier in the musical.

2. How did Lisa feel when Mr. Beckman first called her name?

3. Why didn't Lisa want to be a soldier in the musical?

4. The third paragraph of the story says:

Mr. Beckman tapped his baton on his music stand at the front of the room.

Why did he do this?

- a. He wanted everyone to get ready to sing.
 - b. He wanted people to volunteer to be soldiers.
 - c. He was having trouble holding on to the baton.
 - d. He was trying to get the class to stop talking and pay attention.
5. When Lisa complained about being a soldier, how did Mr. Beckman react?

Now try this: Write three more questions about the story on the back of this paper.
Have a friend answer your questions.

Name: _____



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Vocabulary

The words below are scrambled vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Look back in the story to be sure you spelled each word correctly.

1.

o	s
o	l

Clue: a musical act in which only one person sings

2.

l	i	i	i	n	d
v	u	d	a	s	

Clue: people

3.

i	d	t	s	c	t
i	n	v	e	i	

Clue: special; unique

4.

c	l	s	t
e	e	e	d

Clue: chosen

5.

r	a	g	o
m	p	r	

Clue: a list of singers, musicians, and actors who perform or sing in a play, musical, or concert

6.

n	u	i	a
i	t	d	o

Clue: to try out for a part in a play or musical

7.

r	a	
e	e	g

Clue: excited