

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Second Best

by Kelly Hashway

Simone let the front screen door slam behind her as she trudged into the house. Her backpack slid off her shoulders and onto the floor with a soft thud.

"What's wrong, little sis?" Thomas asked, carrying a bowl of popcorn to the couch.

"Everything," Simone said, slumping down beside him. She tossed a piece of popcorn into the air and tried to



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Da  
right



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low  
d

"Yeah, second place. That's me. Second best to Sheri in everything." Simone crossed her arms.

"What happened?" Thomas asked.

Simone took a deep breath and said, "I tried out for the school play, and Sheri got the lead."

Thomas nodded. "She has been taking acting lessons for the past two summers."

Simone lowered her arms. "I know, and I'm happy for her, but I practiced every night for that part. I wanted it so much."

“What part did you get?” Thomas asked.

“The second best part, of course. When is it going to be my turn to be the best at something?”

Thomas ruffled Simone's hair. “You're the best little sister I have.”

“I'm your only sister,” Simone said.

The doorbell rang, and Thomas got up to answer it. “Hi, Sheri.

Co  
roc  
au  
the  
as you are.



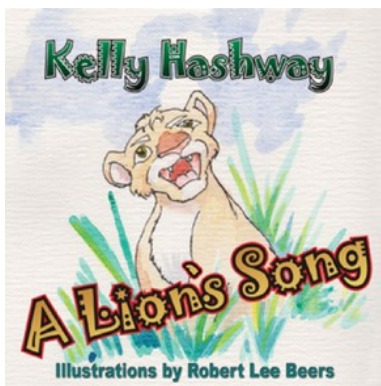
**PREVIEW**

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“Looks like you're the best at something after all,” Thomas said to Simone.

Simone smiled. “I'm glad we got the two main parts, Sheri. That means we get to rehearse our lines together. It's going to be so much fun.”

## About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *A Lion's Song*, is now available!

Amara is the only lion who can't roar. Every time she tries, it comes out like a song. Amara feels out of place in her pride, but when a crocodile threatens her family, Amara's song just might save them.

Hashway, Kelly. *A Lion's Song* ISBN: 978-1616336196

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1. Why is Simone upset when she comes home from school?
  - a. She did not get a part in the school play.
  - b. She got the second best part, while Shari got the best part.
  - c. She forgot to try out for the school play.
  - d. She learned that the school play was canceled.
  
2. By the end of the story, what does Simone learn she is the best at?



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3.

|      |        |        |             |
|------|--------|--------|-------------|
| kind | grumpy | bored  | encouraging |
| mean | loving | sleepy | helpful     |

4. According to the story, why is it likely that Sheri got the lead role in the play?

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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the story.

Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. t \_ \_ u \_ \_ g e d

**clue:** walked with heavy footsteps

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2.



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3.

4. \_ \_ \_ f f \_ \_ \_ d

**clue:** to disturb the smoothness  
of something, like hair

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. a \_ \_ d \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ n

**clue:** to try out for a role in a play

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_ \_ o \_ \_ \_ o \_ \_ n

**clue:** a fluffy white snack

6. \_\_\_\_\_

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In the story, "Second Best," Simone learns that she is good at being a true friend.

Write about your best friend on the lines below.  
What makes him or her a good friend? What makes you a good friend to him or her?

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## ANSWER KEY

# Second Best

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1. Why is Simone upset when she comes home from school? **b.**
- a.** She did not get a part in the school play.



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past two summers.



## ANSWER KEY

# Second Best

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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the story.

Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.



1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



6. **p** o **p** **c** o **r** n

**clue:** a fluffy white snack

6. **popcorn**