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Acting the Part

By Kelly Hashway

Hadley rushed off the bus and raced to the senior center, glancing back several times to make sure no one saw her. She loved spending her afternoons with her great-uncle and the other seniors, but she didn't think her friends would understand.

"Good afternoon, Hadley," Mr.

Matthews said, greeting her at the door. "If you keep coming here to entertain our residents, we're going to have to put you on the payroll." He laughed at his joke and held the door open for her.

"It's just as much fun for me as it is for the others," Hadley said. She walked to the community room and opened her

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backpack. Her purple velvet dress was shoved inside, getting wrinkled. But how else was she supposed to get her costumes here to perform for the seniors?

“What show are you putting on for us today, Hadley?” her great-uncle Albert asked.

She smiled at him and held up the dress. “Rapunzel. Isn’t this dress pretty?”

“Very.”



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asked him.

“I was just going to ask you the same thing. I followed you from the bus.”

“I didn’t see you on the bus. I thought you had baseball after school.” Hadley gulped, not sure she was ready to tell Tyler what she’d been doing. No one knew she wanted to be an actress when she grew up.

“It was canceled because the coach is sick.”

“Oh. Well, I was just here visiting Uncle Albert.”

understand Hadley’s love of acting.

“Do you need help?”

“What?” Hadley’s eyes widened.

Tyler shrugged. “I’ve never acted before, but it could be fun.”

“I thought you’d think it was silly.”

“No way. You might be in movies someday if you keep practicing. That’s really cool.” Tyler looked around. “Got a costume for me?”

Hadley smiled. “I think we can find you one.”

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1. What fairy tale did Hadley plan to perform at the senior center?

2. Describe the costume Hadley brought for her performance.



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4. Why hadn't Hadley told Tyler that she performs at the senior center?
 - a. She knew he would want to help.
 - b. She didn't think he knew anything about acting.
 - c. She was embarrassed.
 - d. She didn't know that Tyler wanted to be an actor.

5. Think about the following lines from the story and answer the question.

"Good afternoon, Hadley," Mr. Matthews said ... "If you keep coming here to entertain the residents, we're going to have to put you on the payroll."

In the quote above, Mr. Matthews...

- a. was worried that Hadley came too often.
- b. was trying to get Hadley to accept money for her performances.
- c. was asking Hadley to come more often.
- d. was making a joke.

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right. Write the letter on the line provided.

1. ____ raced

a. perform for someone; amuse someone



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5. ____ velvet

e. hurried

6. ____ Rapunzel

f. fairy tale about a girl with long hair

7. ____ costume

g. list of people who receive paychecks

8. ____ actress

h. very soft material used to make clothes

❖ **Now try this:** Find all of the words above in the story and highlight them.

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Acting the Part



In the story, "Acting the Part," Hadley wants to be an actress when she grows up. She performs plays at the senior center because she enjoys acting and because she wants to entertain the residents who live there.

Tell what you might want to be when you grow up. Describe the job and tell why it sounds interesting to you.



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ANSWER KEY

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