



A Choice for Sarah

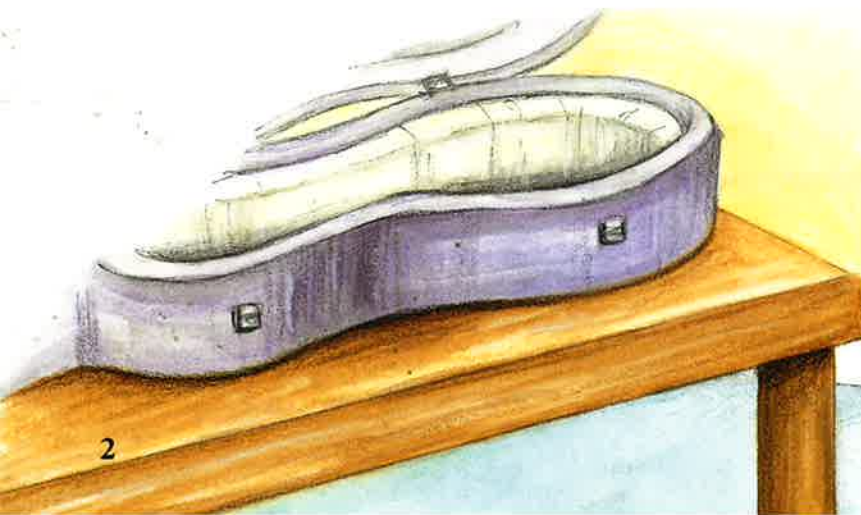
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“I have to learn a new piece for my violin exam,” said Sarah, when she came in from her music lesson. “I’ve only got five weeks to get it right, Mum. It sounded great when Mr Kahn played it, but I think it might be too hard for me.”

Mum smiled at her. “I’m sure you’ll be able to do it,” she said. “Why don’t you practise it now? I love listening to you play.”

Sarah started to play her new piece, but she kept making mistakes. “I’ll never get it right,” she said. She put her violin away, and ran outside to practise handstands for her gym lesson instead.



For teachers' Inspection Only



At gym the next afternoon, the children began with floor exercises: handstands, forward rolls, backward rolls, cartwheels and split leaps.

At the end of the lesson, everyone gathered around Mandy, their coach. "We've got a good chance of doing well in the next competition," she told them. "It's in five weeks' time. I'd like all of you to practise as much as possible. I want everyone to do their best."



“How am I going to practise my gym, and the violin, and do all my school work as well?” thought Sarah.



At her next violin lesson, Mr Kahn asked Sarah to try the new piece he had given her. She began, but she couldn't play it properly.

"Oh," she said. "That sounded awful!"

Mr Kahn was surprised. "You usually play better than that, Sarah! Would you like to try it again?" he suggested.

But Sarah still couldn't get it right. "I didn't have enough time to practise," she explained. "I have to work hard for a gym competition, too. It's on Saturday, the first of March."

"But that's the same day as your music exam!" said Mr Kahn.

"Is it?" said Sarah. "What am I going to do?"

"I'm afraid you won't be able to do both," said Mr Kahn. "You'll have to make a choice."