

The Best Part

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"Our play for this year is *The Wizard of Oz*," Miss Drew told the class. There were shrieks of excitement and lots of cheering.

"Hands up for the part of the Tin Man," Miss Drew began.

Hands shot up in the air, but not Angie's. She kept her hand firmly down. She was waiting for a special part. Robert's name went up on the board.



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"Hands up for the part of the Scarecrow," said Miss Drew.

Angie's hand did not go up.

"Who would like to be the Lion?" asked Miss Drew.

Angie kept her hands in her lap.

"Now for the main part," said Miss Drew. "Who wants to be Dorothy?"

More than anything else, Angie wanted to play the part of Dorothy. She had waited all this time to put her hand up for the part. But nearly every girl in the class had her hand up, too.

Miss Drew didn't see Angie's hand. Felicity, the tallest girl in the class, got the part instead.

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Angie was so disappointed, she was ready to cry. Why didn't she ever get a good part? Every year she waited to be picked for an important part, but every year someone else was chosen.

She bit her lip and fought back the tears.

"We have one main part left," Miss Drew said.

Angie's hand flew high above the rest. She wanted a part — any part.

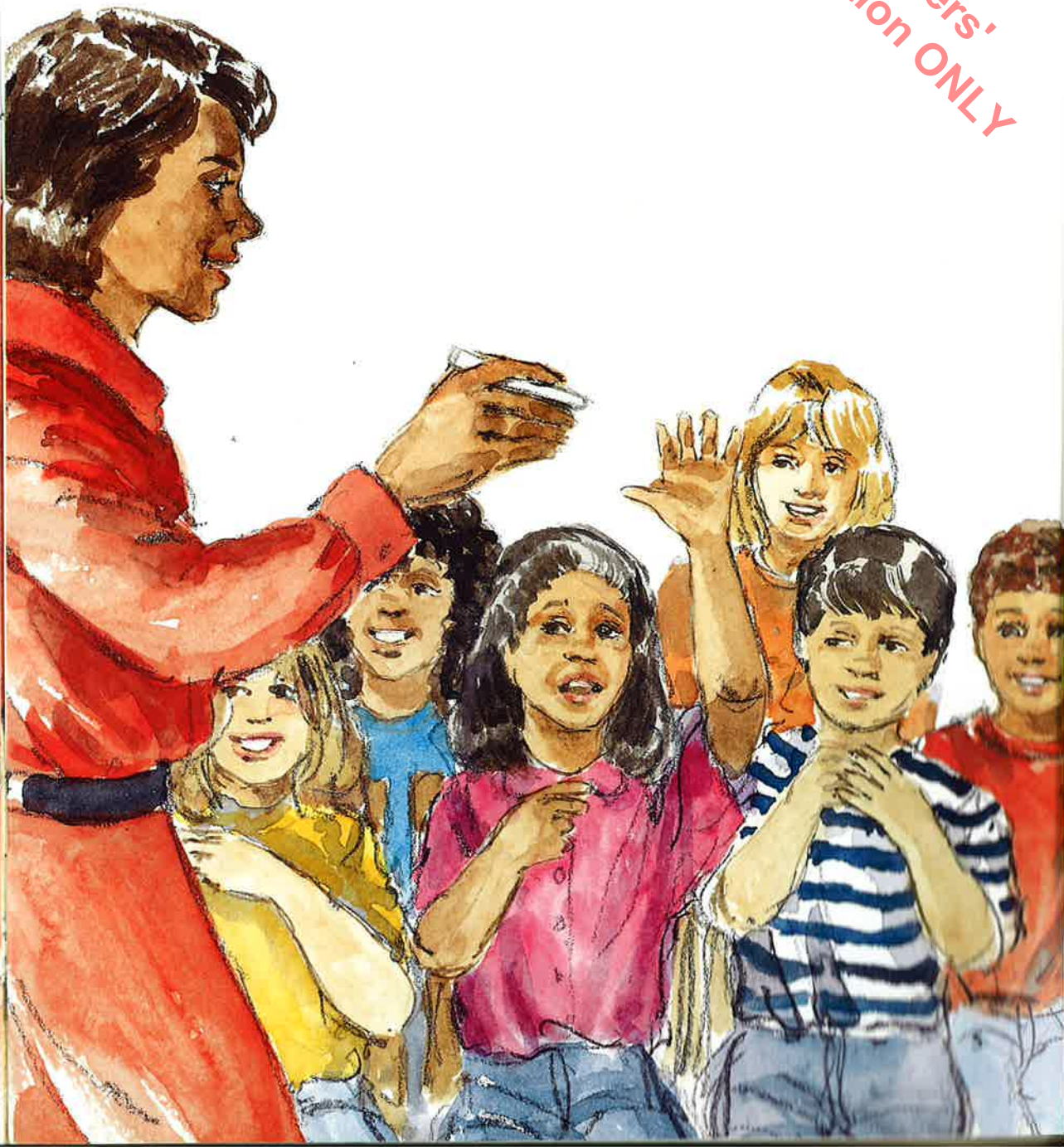
This time, Miss Drew noticed Angie's hand first.

"Thank you, Angie," Miss Drew said. "You have the part of Toto, Dorothy's little dog."

Angie stared at Miss Drew. *Dorothy's little dog, Toto!* Her mouth gaped open. There were a few laughs in the classroom.



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No one wanted to play the part of the dog. It was not an important part at all. All the dog had to do was to walk alongside Dorothy.

It was too late to change her mind. Miss Drew had written Angie's name on the board.

Angie sighed and wished she could be Dorothy.

"It's a shame you have to be the little dog," Felicity teased. "It's so much nicer playing Dorothy."

