

RACHEL THE RAPPER

RACHEL LOVED TO RAP. WHEN SHE WAS ALONE IN HER BEDROOM, SHE WOULD LISTEN TO RAP SONGS AND RAP ALONG FOR HOURS. SHE COULD RAP ALL OF THE FASTEST SONGS WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT, AND SHE EVEN WROTE HER OWN RAPS SOMETIMES.

But she never rapped in front of other people because she wasn't confident enough. She wouldn't even rap in front of her best friends or family.

THE SCHOOL TALENT SHOW WAS COMING UP. RACHEL SAW THE SIGN-UP SHEET ON HER TEACHER'S DESK, AND AFTER CLASS, SHE STOPPED TO LOOK AT IT.

"ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP?" HER TEACHER ASKED.

"I'M NOT SURE . . ." RACHEL REPLIED.

HER TEACHER SMILED. "WELL, EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO PERFORM!"

RACHEL THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT, THEN PICKED UP A PEN AND SIGNED HER NAME. MAYBE SHE

WOULD FINALLY HAVE THE COURAGE TO PERFORM.

A FEW WEEKS LATER, AS THE TALENT SHOW BEGAN, RACHEL SAT BACKSTAGE, CRYING. HER FRIEND JESSICA FOUND HER AND PUT AN ARM AROUND HER.

"I'M SO SCARED," SAID RACHEL.

"EVERYONE GETS STAGE FRIGHT. I BELIEVE IN YOU!" SAID JESSICA. RACHEL DRIED HER TEARS AND TOOK SEVERAL DEEP BREATHS. WHEN HER NAME WAS CALLED, SHE WALKED ONSTAGE WITH SHAKY LEGS. BUT WHEN THE MUSIC BEGAN TO PLAY, SHE FOUND THE RHYTHM AND DIDN'T MISS A