

The Talent Show Surprise



A Story for A1 Readers

Fleydo English School

This little story is for beginner readers. Read it slowly, look at the **bold words** and find them in the Word List at the end. After the story, try the activities: a Word List, a Matching game, Fill in the Blanks, and a Quiz. Have fun!

Chapter 1**A Very Quiet Boy***Sam does not like to talk*

Sam is twelve years old. He is a nice boy. But he is very **shy**. He does not like to talk in class. When the teacher asks a question, Sam looks down. His face goes red. He does not put up his hand.

At break time, Sam sits alone. The other children play and laugh. But Sam is too shy to join them.

“I cannot sing,” Sam thinks. “I cannot dance. I cannot play football. I am not special.”

But this is not true. Sam has a **secret**. At home, Sam can do something amazing.

Every evening, Sam goes to his room. He closes the door. And he **practises** his secret skill. Nobody knows about it.

Chapter 2**The Secret Skill**

What can Sam do?



Sam can do magic tricks!

What is Sam's secret? Sam can do **magic!**

Sam loves magic. He has a small black hat and a magic wand. He can do many tricks.

Sam can make a coin disappear. He can pull a flower from his hand. His best trick is with a red ball.

Sam practises every day. He is very good now. But Sam is too shy to show anybody. “What if people laugh? What if I make a **mistake?**”

So Sam keeps his magic a secret. He does his tricks alone, in his room, with the door closed.

One day, the teacher, Mrs Lee, makes an announcement: “Next week, we have a school talent show! You can sing, dance, or show a special skill!” Sam's heart goes fast.

Chapter 3**Too Shy to Join**

Sam says no to the talent show

“Who wants to join the talent show?” Mrs Lee asks. Many children put up their hands. Emma can sing. Max can play the guitar. Lily can dance.

“What about you, Sam? Can you do something special?” Sam's face goes red. He wants to show his magic. But he is too shy.

“No,” Sam says quietly. “I cannot do anything.”

At home, Sam is sad. “I want to show my magic. But I am too **scared**. What if I make a mistake in front of everybody?”

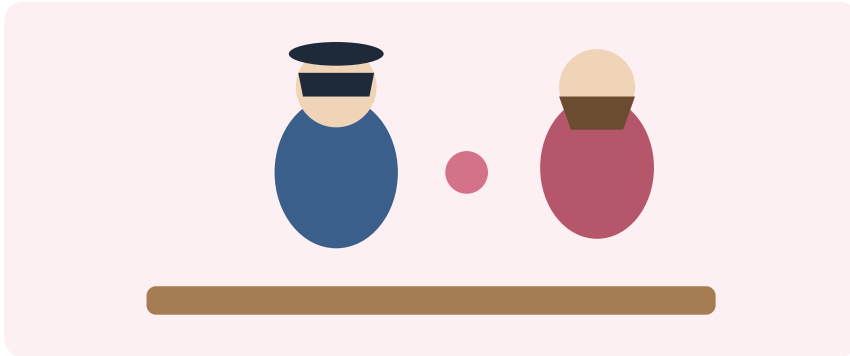
That night, Sam's big sister Anna comes into his room. She sees the magic hat and the wand. “Sam, do you do magic? Show me!”

Sam does his best trick with the red ball. Anna's eyes go wide. “Wow! You are a real magician! You must show this at the talent show. You have a real **talent!**”

Chapter 4

A Little Help

Anna helps Sam to be brave



Sam and Anna practise together.

“But I am too shy,” Sam says. “I cannot stand in front of all those people.” “I help you,” Anna says. “We practise together. Every day.”

So every evening, Sam and Anna practise. At first, Sam is nervous. His hands shake. He drops the ball.

“That is okay,” Anna says. “Try again. Practice makes perfect.” Sam tries again. And again. Soon, he does his tricks with no mistakes.

“You are ready! But you need one more thing. You need to believe in yourself. You can do this, Sam. Be **brave**. I believe in you.”

Sam takes a deep breath. “Okay,” he says. “I try.”

The next day, Sam goes to Mrs Lee. “Mrs Lee, I want to join the talent show. I can do magic.” Mrs Lee smiles a big smile. “Wonderful, Sam!”

Chapter 5**The Big Day***The talent show begins*

It is the day of the talent show. The school hall is full. First, Emma sings. Then Lily dances. Then Max plays his guitar.

Sam waits at the side. He wears his black magic hat. He holds his wand. His **stage** is ready.

“And now,” Mrs Lee says, “we have Sam the Magician!” Sam walks onto the stage. His legs are weak. His heart goes very fast.

Then he sees Anna. She sits in the front. She smiles and gives him a thumbs up. “I can do this,” Sam thinks. “Be brave.”

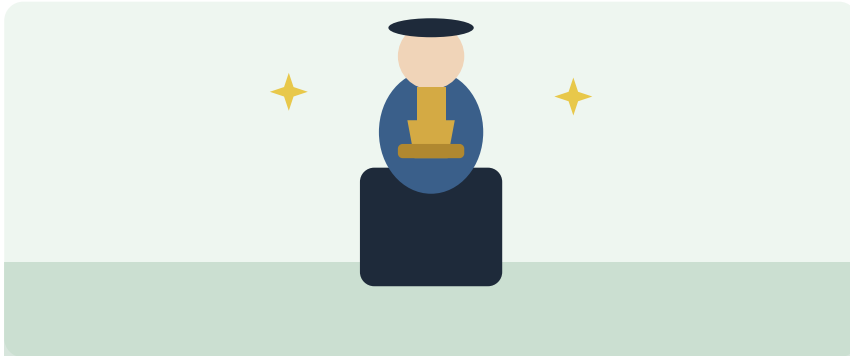
Sam takes out his red ball. He puts it under a cup. “Abracadabra!” He lifts the cup. The ball is gone! It is now under a different cup! The children gasp.

For his last trick, Sam pulls a long, colourful scarf from his hat. It goes on and on! Then everybody claps and cheers. Sam is happy and **proud**.

Chapter 6

The Big Surprise

Everybody loves Sam's magic



Sam wins the talent show!

After the show, all the children run to Sam. “That is amazing! How do you do it?” “It is a secret!” Sam says with a smile. “A magician never tells!”

“Can you teach me a trick?” Max asks. “Yes! I can show you an easy one.”

Everybody is **surprised**. The shy, quiet boy is a real magician!

Then Mrs Lee comes to the stage. She holds a gold cup. “And the winner of the talent show is... Sam the Magician!”

The hall claps and cheers. Sam wins! He cannot believe it. “Thank you,” Sam says. He looks at Anna. She is crying happy tears.

Sam holds the gold cup high. The whole school cheers for him. The shy boy with the secret is now the star of the show.

Chapter 7**Not Shy Any More**

Sam learns to believe in himself

After the talent show, Sam is different. He is not so shy now. In class, he puts up his hand. At break time, he plays with the other children.

Sam even starts a magic **club** at school. Every Friday, he teaches other children how to do tricks.

“Magic is fun,” Sam says. “And it is more fun with friends.”

One evening, Anna asks him, “Sam, are you happy now?” “Yes. Very happy. Thank you for your help, Anna. You teach me to be brave.”

“No,” Anna says with a smile. “You do it yourself. You have the talent. You just need to believe in it.”

Sam smiles. He knows it is true. Sometimes, the most special thing is a secret — until you are brave enough to share it.

“Believe in yourself, and share your gift.”

Word List

Learn these words from the story

Shy	quiet and nervous with other people
Secret	something you do not tell other people
Practises	does something many times to get better
Magic	special tricks that look impossible
Mistake	something you do wrong
Scared	afraid; full of fear
Talent	a special thing you can do well
Brave	not afraid to do something difficult
Stage	the place where you stand to perform
Proud	happy because you did something well
Surprised	when something happens you do not expect
Club	a group of people who do something together
Magician	a person who does magic tricks
Trick	a clever thing a magician does
Wand	a thin stick a magician uses for magic
Believe	to think that something is true or possible

Matching

Draw a line from each word to its meaning

1. Shy	a. Not afraid of difficult things
2. Secret	b. To think something is true
3. Practises	c. Tricks that look impossible
4. Magic	d. A person who does magic
5. Mistake	e. Where you perform for people
6. Scared	f. Something you do wrong
7. Talent	g. Happy because you did well
8. Brave	h. Something you do not tell
9. Stage	i. Quiet and nervous with people
10. Proud	j. A special thing you do well
11. Magician	k. Does it many times to get better
12. Believe	l. Afraid; full of fear

Fill in the Blanks

Write the correct word from the box in each gap

brave · magic · mistake · practises · proud · scared · secret · shy · stage ·
talent

1. Sam does not like to talk. He is very _____.
2. Sam has a _____ that nobody knows about.
3. Every evening, Sam _____ his tricks in his room.
4. Sam's special skill is _____!
5. Sam is worried he will make a _____ in front of people.
6. At first, Sam is too _____ to join the talent show.
7. His sister says he has a real _____.
8. With help from Anna, Sam learns to be _____.
9. On the day of the show, Sam walks onto the _____.
10. Sam wins, and he feels happy and _____.

Comprehension Quiz

Circle the correct answer for each question

1. How old is Sam?

- A) Ten
- B) Eleven
- C) Twelve
- D) Thirteen

2. What is Sam like at the start of the story?

- A) Loud and funny
- B) Very shy and quiet
- C) Angry
- D) Lazy

3. What is Sam's secret skill?

- A) He can sing
- B) He can dance
- C) He can do magic
- D) He can play football

4. Where does Sam practise his tricks?

- A) At school
- B) In the park
- C) In his room with the door closed
- D) On stage

5. Who finds out about Sam's magic first?

- A) His teacher
- B) His friend Max
- C) His sister Anna
- D) His mum

6. How does Anna help Sam?

- A) She does the magic for him
- B) She practises with him and helps him be brave
- C) She tells the teacher
- D) She buys him a new hat

7. What does Sam pull from his hat for his last trick?

- A) A rabbit
- B) A coin
- C) A long colourful scarf
- D) A bird

8. How does Sam feel after his performance?

- A) Still very shy
- B) Sad
- C) Happy and proud
- D) Bored

9. Who wins the talent show?

- A) Emma
- B) Max
- C) Lily
- D) Sam

10. What is the main idea of the story?

- A) Magic is dangerous
- B) Believe in yourself and share your talent
- C) Never go on stage
- D) Talent shows are boring

Answer Key

For teachers and parents

Matching: 1-i 2-h 3-k 4-c 5-f 6-l 7-j 8-a 9-e 10-g 11-d 12-b

Fill in the Blanks: 1. shy 2. secret 3. practises 4. magic 5. mistake 6. scared 7. talent 8. brave 9. stage 10. proud

Quiz: 1. C 2. B 3. C 4. C 5. C 6. B 7. C 8. C 9. D 10. B



Thank you for reading with Fleydo English School!

Key Ideas: Everyone has a special talent · Be brave and try new things · Friends and family can help you · Believe in yourself