

The Three Rapunzels

"This year we will be doing a musical. It's called *Rapunzel Rock*." "Isn't *Rapunzel* a fairy tale?" whispered Daisy to her friend Rani. Rani nodded. "I think so." She turned to their friend Ming. Ming knew lots of stories. "It's the one about the girl with long hair who is locked in a tower," said Ming.

"Our musical will be a song and dance extravaganza!" declared Miss Bell. "I'd make the best Rapunzel," squealed Daisy. "Wait until Miss Bell sees me dance!" said Rani. "There can't be two Rapunzels," huffed Daisy. "Ming who do you think would make the best Rapunzel? How could she choose between her two best friends? Auditions are next week," said Miss Bell. "I expect everyone to try out." "I can't sing or dance," said Ming. "You'll be fine, just give it your best," said Miss Bell.

The next week, hopeful cast members lined up outside Miss Bell's dram room. At the end of the week, Miss Bell called Rani and Daisy into her office. "I would like you to share the role of Rapunzel," she smiled. Rani and Daisy did not smile. At singing practice Daisy tried extra hard to impress Miss Bell. The songs were easy, but it was hard to remember her line. At dancing practice Rani tried extra hard to impress Miss Bell. The dances were easy, but she kept forgetting what she had to say. Ming offered to help her friends learn their lines. But when Rani came to practice, all she wanted to do was talk about Daisy's singing. And Daisy just wanted to talk about Rani's dancing.

Two days before opening night, Rani ran off stage crying. She had forgotten her lines again and now she had lost her voice. Daisy slipped and hurt her ankle. "Opening night is only days away. This is a disaster! What am I going to do?" cried Miss Bell.

An hour later Miss Bell called the girls together. "Daisy, Rani and Ming, I want you all to be Rapunzel. I've made some changes. The show is now called *The three Rapunzels*."

"But I can't sing or dance," cried Ming.

"But you can act and best of all you can remember your lines," smiled Miss Bell. "Ming will be the talking Rapunzel, Daisy will be the singing Rapunzel and Rani will be the dancing Rapunzel. You can do what you do best and the three of you together will be fantastic!" As soon as the three Rapunzel's hit the stage, Ming's nerves were gone. She never missed a step and Daisy didn't miss a note. All three Rapunzel's shone.

Answer the following questions:

1. What was the school musical for the year and what was it about?
2. What were Daisy and Ran's talents for the musical?
3. What was Ming's talent?
4. Why did Miss Bell have to write a new script?
5. Did any of the girls lack confidence?
6. What does the word "extravaganza" mean?
7. How did the show go on opening night?
8. Was it a good idea to have three Rapunzels?
9. Why was it hard for Ming to have two best friends in this situation?
10. How is the saying "the show must go on" relevant to this story?