

An Adventure in Arrow Rock

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Chapter Six

Actress Celeste Holm

The students chattered excitedly as they left the kitchen. Henry stopped just short of their vacated table, now magically weighed down with hamburgers and fries.

“Lunch!” he shouted. “Finally!” Everyone filled their plates.

Charlie and the kids fit the new piece to the vase.

“A place where stars perform and enchant,” Samantha said thoughtfully between mouthfuls of food. “It must be a movie theatre. Is there one in Arrow Rock, Mr. P?”

“Theatre is a good guess,” Charlie told her. “But I’m not sure.”

Zuri was looking at the back of the menu. “There’s an ad here for the Lyceum Theatre in town. That sure sounds like a place for song and dance.”

“To the theatre?” Charles asked his revived students.

“To the theatre!” they chorused, heading out the door.

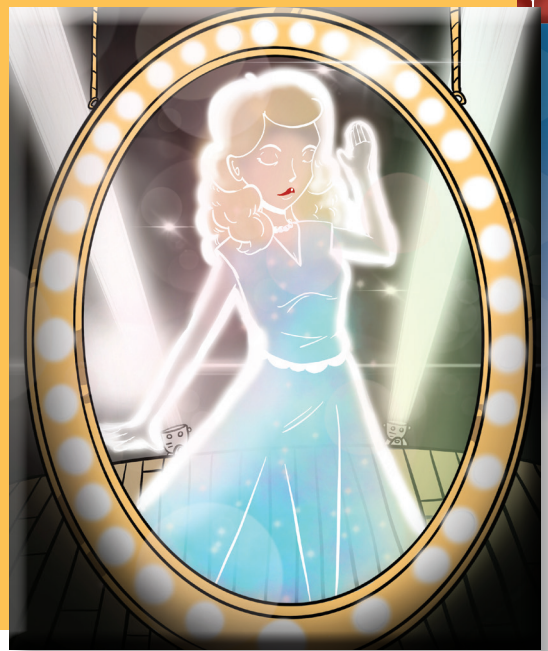
When they arrived, Zuri said, “It looks like a church.”

The Lyceum Theatre did look like a church with its white clapboard siding and picturesque windows.

Amir found a pamphlet by the front door. “Lyceum Theatre,” he read. “It was a church. When the congregation dwindled in the 1960s, the two families who owned the building turned it into a theatre. Today, it provides Broadway-caliber productions for audiences.”

“What are we waiting for!” Samantha cried.

Amir swung the door open, and the others followed as he headed to the stage. As he approached, the spotlights flashed on, illuminating a set and nearly blinding the startled students. Amir jumped into the spotlight, mimicking tap as he danced



across the stage. Suddenly, he tripped and toppled onto his side. When he looked up, before him was another shimmering apparition, a blonde woman with bright red lipstick, curls and pearls.

“Whoa,” Amir murmured, scrambling to his feet. “Who are you?”

“I’m Celeste Holm, of course!” the woman sang, striking a dramatic pose.

“She sure looks like a star!” Henry said.

“Indeed!” Celeste chirped in bubbly tones. “I was born in Manhattan and came of age on Broadway. In my time, I’ve graced many stages and silver screens.”

“Why are you in Arrow Rock?” Amir asked.

“I played Aunt Polly in the Tom Sawyer movie that was filmed here, a big role! That’s when Hollywood came to Arrow Rock. Just look at this theatre! So many actors and musicians have performed here.”

She grabbed Amir’s hands and spun him in a dance across the stage.

“Take a bow!” she directed as they completed their spin.

Amir bowed deeply. When he looked up, Celeste was gone! But right at his feet, sat a piece of pottery. He quickly picked it up.

One more piece needed to complete the vase,

Take time to appreciate a moment of grace.

NEWSPAPER CONNECTIONS

Learn about the theater scene in your area by reading the local newspaper. Find out the number of groups, types of performances, if auditions are open and other information you’d like to know. Share with friends and classmates.

