

C H O I C E S

# friend or foe?

E. Robins

# chapter

# 1

Jazz sat at the front of his school. It was almost time for the bell to ring. His best friend, Key, sat with him.

The boys read their science notes. They had a science test today. And they wanted to study some more before school started.

“Did you study a lot for our test?” Jazz asked.

“Yeah. I had to. I didn’t study much for the last one. And I failed it. I have to get a good grade this time,” Key said.

“I did okay last time. But not that great. So I need to get a good grade, too,” Jazz said.

“Do you know what will be on the test?” Key asked.

“You know Mr. Lee. He’ll have everything on the test that he told us to study. Just to make sure we studied *all* of it,” Jazz said.

“You’re right about that,” Key said. Then he laughed. Mr. Lee always gave them a lot to study. His tests always covered everything they learned.

“Did you study everything?” Jazz asked.

“I tried to,” Key said.

“So did I,” Jazz said. The two boys read their science notes for a few more minutes. Then Jazz looked at Key.

Jazz said, “You look like you’re half asleep.”

“I feel that way, too,” Key said.

“Why? Did you stay up late last night to study?” Jazz asked.

“Yeah. Did you?” Key asked.

“Yeah. I hope I can get to bed early tonight,” Jazz said.

“Yeah, me, too. Did you hear about Trace?” Key asked.

“No. What’s up?” Jazz asked.

Trace was their class president. He was a good guy. All of the students liked him.

Jazz hoped that nothing bad had happened to Trace. He hadn’t seen Trace for a few days.

Key said, “His dad has a new job. Trace has to move. So he won’t be going to our school any more.”

“Too bad. Trace is a good guy,” Jazz said.

“Yeah. One of the best,” Key said.

Trace wouldn't be back at their school.  
So he couldn't be their class president.

"What will we do about a class president?" Jazz asked.

"I asked Miss Lopez about that," Key said. Miss Lopez was their math teacher.

"What did she say?" Jazz asked.

"She said we need to hold an election," Key said.

"I hope it's soon. Did she say when it will be?" Jazz asked.

"Yeah. The week after next," Key said.

"Who do you think will run?" Jazz asked.

"I don't know. I hope it's someone who listens to the other students. Trace always listened. We might not be that lucky next time," Key said.

"Yeah. The president before Trace did whatever he wanted. He didn't listen to us," Jazz said.

Key said, "I'll ask around. Maybe I can find out who wants to run."

"I'll ask around, too," Jazz said.

The bell rang for school to start.

Jazz said, "Time to get to class. Good luck on your test."

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It's time to elect a new class president. Cory and Eli quickly enter the race, although Jazz and Key aren't so sure that either of them would make a good president. After Jazz agrees to vote for his friend, Cory, he realizes that he would like to run himself. Will Jazz turn out to be Cory's friend or foe? ➡➡



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