



ZUZE  
AND THE  
STAR

VICKI C. HAYES

# 1 CLASS TRIP

It was the year 2143. Zuze was in seventh grade. Today, Zuze was in music class. Zuze loved music. She loved all kinds of music. Her friend was in the class too. Her friend was Emm. The teacher was Ms. Cleff.

“Class, I have some work for you,” said Ms. Cleff. “You are going to write a paper. The paper will be about a singer. The singer must be from the past.”



Zuze talked softly to Emm.

“I don’t like writing papers,” Zuze said. Then she raised her hand. “It is hard to write a paper,” she told Ms. Cleff. “What do we write?”

“This paper will not be hard,” said Ms. Cleff. “You’ll see. First you will pick a singer you like. Then you will learn about your singer.”

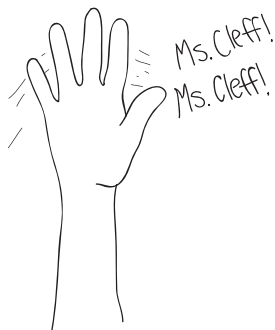
“How will we do that?” asked Zuze.

“We will take a trip,” said Ms. Cleff. “It will be a time travel trip.”



Many new things had been made by the year 2143. One new thing was time travel. The people in 2143 could travel in time.

Zuze and Emm were excited. This would be their first time travel trip. Zuze raised her hand again.



“Are we going to visit the singers?” she asked.

“Yes,” said Ms. Cleff. “We’re going back in time. We’re going to see singers in the past.”

“I love old music,” Zuze said to Emm. “I can’t wait for this trip.” Zuze raised her hand again.

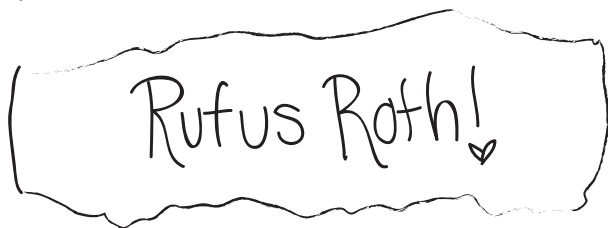


“Who will we see?” she asked Ms. Cleff. Zuze liked one singer the best. She hoped they would visit him.

“We will visit five singers,” said Ms. Cleff. “You must tell me the singers you like. Then I will pick five. Those five will be the singers we will visit.”

The class was excited. Each kid got a scrap of paper. Each kid wrote a singer’s name on the paper. They folded the papers. Then they gave the papers to Ms. Cleff. She put the papers in a box. She shook the box.

Emm looked at Zuze. “I know the name you wrote,” she said. “You wrote Rufus Roth.”



Rufus Roth! ♡



Zuze nodded. “Yes,” said Zuze. “Rufus Roth is the best singer ever. He’s a star.” Zuze really wanted to visit Rufus Roth.

Ms. Cleff put her hand in the box. She grabbed five papers. She took them out. She read each one out loud.

“Bronx Moon,” said Ms. Cleff. Some kids cheered. Zuze rubbed her nose.

“Riker 5,” said Ms. Cleff. Some more kids cheered. Zuze rubbed her ear.

“Ayza,” said Ms. Cleff. Emm cheered. Zuze was happy for Emm.



“Talon,” said Ms. Cleff. Lots of kids cheered. Zuze looked sad. She really



wanted to visit Rufus Roth. Zuze crossed her fingers. Zuze crossed her arms. Zuze crossed her eyes. Zuze even tried to cross her toes.

Ms. Cleff read the last name.

“Rufus Roth.”

Zuze cheered!



## 2 RULES

Ms. Cleff talked to the class.

“This is your first time travel trip,” she said. “Time travel has four rules. Who can tell me the rules?”

Zuze and Emm knew the rules. Everyone knew the rules. Zuze raised her hand.

“Time travel only goes into the past,” said Zuze.

Time travel:

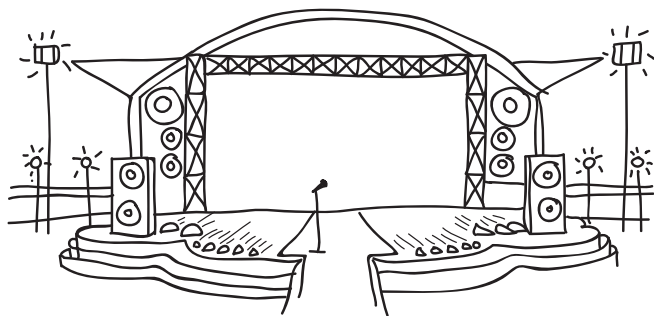




“You are right,” said Ms. Cleff. “Time travel only works one way. What is rule two?” Jep raised his hand.

“The people in the past can’t see us,” said Jep.

“Yes,” said Ms. Cleff. “No one will see us. We can stand very close. But no one will see us. This will be good at the concerts. We will stand next to the stage. The people will see the singers. They will not see us. It will be fun. What is rule three?” Mat raised his hand.



“We can’t change things,” said Mat.

“Very good,” said Ms. Cleff. “We cannot change the past. Some time travelers try to change things. But nothing happens. Time travelers cannot change the past. But what *can* we do?” Kimmy raised her hand.

“We can watch and listen,” said Kimmy.

“We can watch,” said Ms. Cleff. “And we can listen. We can watch the singers. We can listen to the songs.” Ms. Cleff went to the wall screen.

“You did a good job,” said Ms. Cleff. “You knew all the rules. Here they are again.” Ms. Cleff put the rules on the wall screen. The class read the rules.

1. Time travel only goes into the past.
2. The people in the past will not see or hear you.



3. Time travelers cannot change anything.
4. Time travelers can watch and listen.

“On our trip you must take notes,” said Ms. Cleff. “You will write about the singers. You will write about the concerts. Then we will come home. You will read your notes. You will write your papers. It will not be hard.”

“I can’t wait,” said Zuze. “I can’t wait to see Rufus Roth. He is the best singer of all time.”

“He is good,” said Emm. “But Ayza is good too.”

“Ayza doesn’t sing the best song,” said Zuze. “Only Rufus Roth sings the best song.”

“What’s the best song?” asked Emm.

“The best song is ‘Susie Girl,’” said Zuze. “It’s a fun song. I like the jumpy music. I



like the happy words. The song is about a cute girl. I bet the girl is Rufus's friend. I bet Susie is Rufus's girlfriend."



"Maybe," said Emm. "Maybe we'll find out on our trip."

