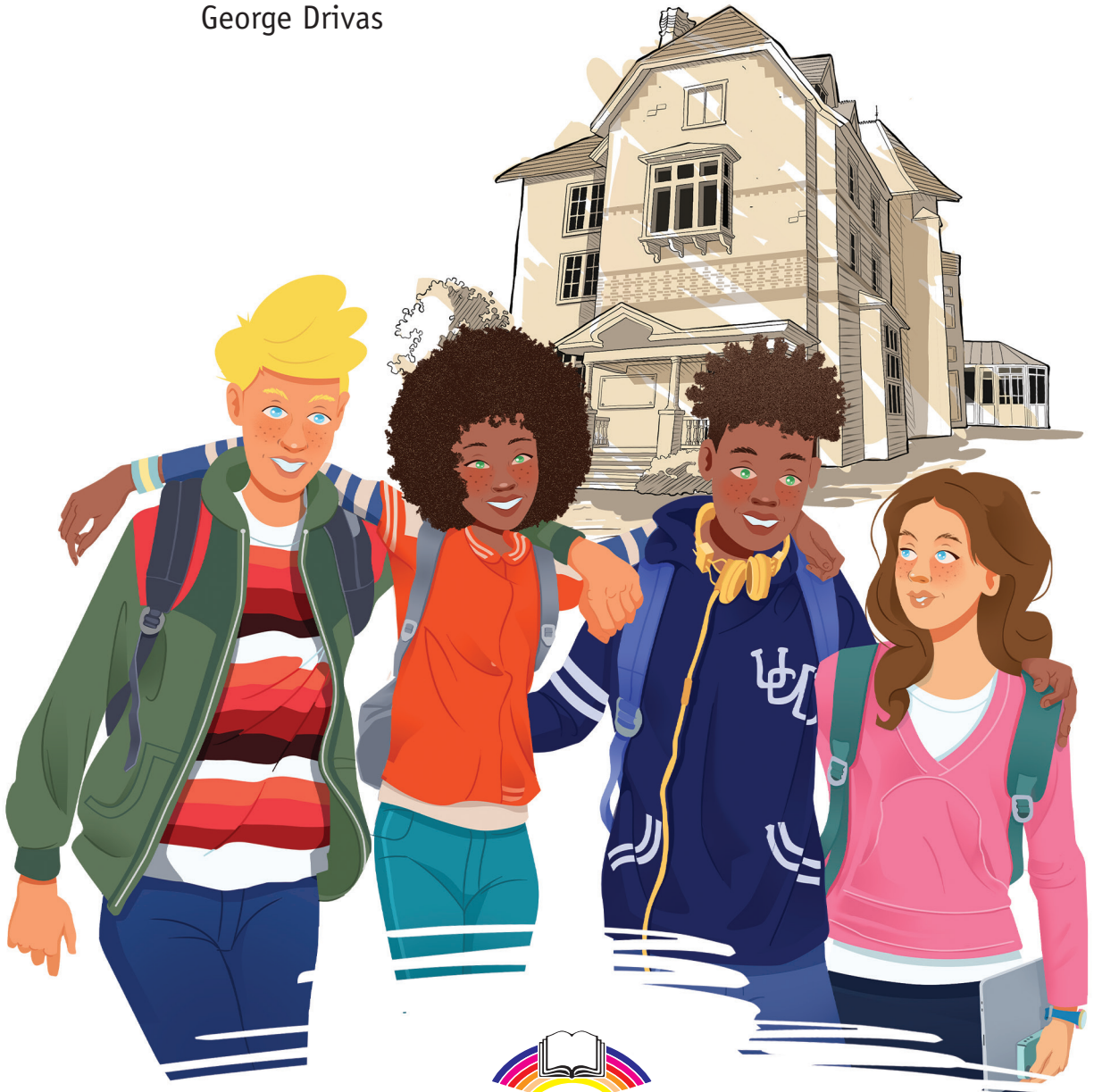


AM@IZED

# VISIONS!

George Drivas



Express Publishing

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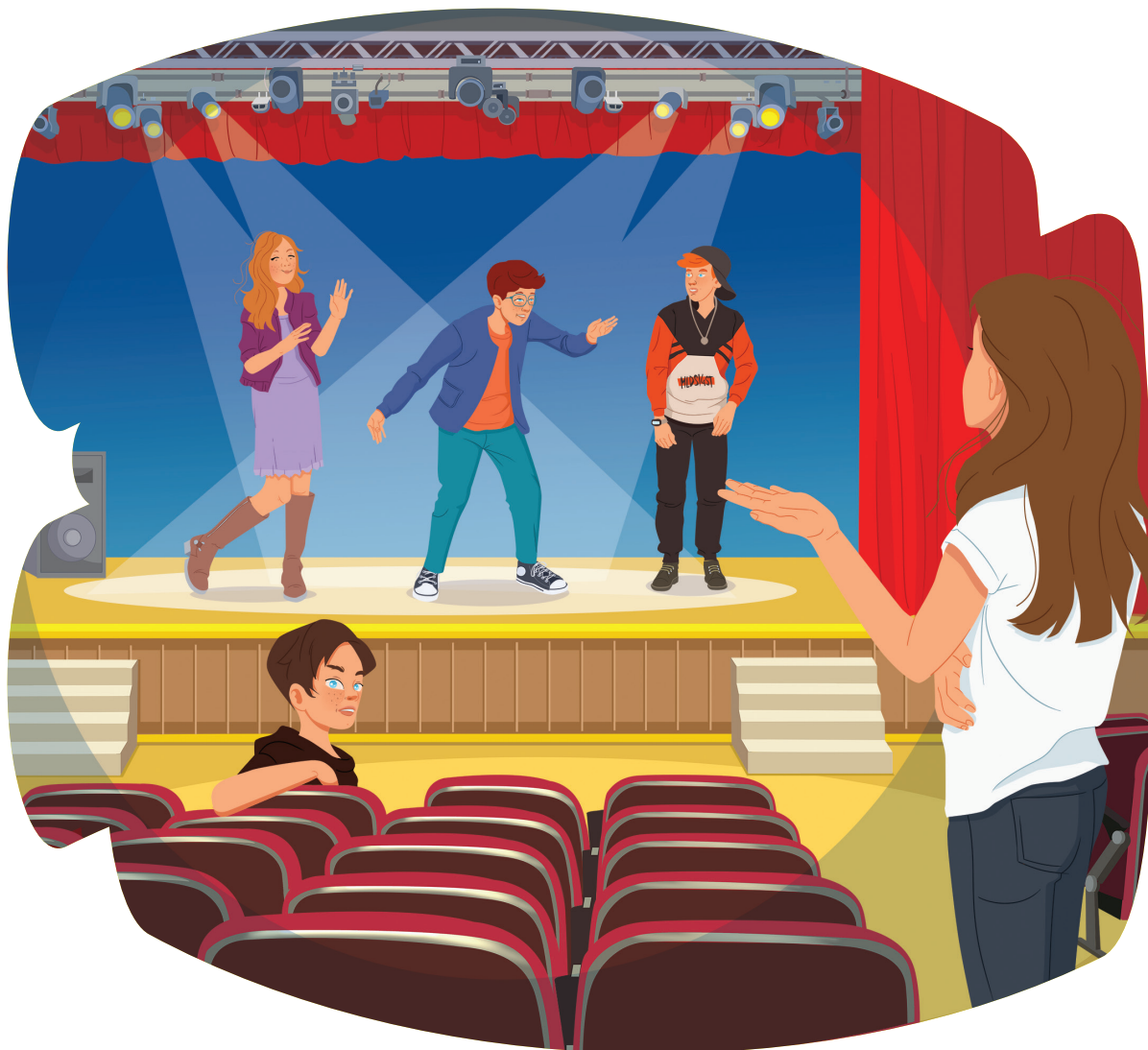
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# Happy Dreams & Nightmares

## Elisa's Happy Dream



"I'm going to be late. Again," Elisa thinks. She always feels she will be late. She is walking quickly towards Rivertown High School Theatre. The dress rehearsal will begin soon. Elisa is in charge of the performance and the costumes. She wants everything to be ready.

She walks into the theatre lobby in the nick of time. There is loud music coming from inside. She opens the door to the theatre hall. All the actors are on stage getting ready for the final part of the play.

"I've never been this late before," she thinks. "They're finishing already!"

---

She tries to run down to the stage, but her feet feel stuck to the floor. She can't control them. She can only stand and watch.

She notices that the actors, the dancers and the musicians are in their everyday clothes. This is strange. Very strange.

"Oh dear! Why aren't they wearing their costumes?" she thinks.

Elisa designed the costumes herself. This project was a dream come true for her. She worked on them from beginning to end. She made sure each costume was a perfect fit for each actor, singer and dancer. When she finished with the last one, she put each costume, with the name of the correct person on it, in the dressing rooms. She wanted everything ready for the dress rehearsal today.

"What's happened? Why aren't the actors wearing their costumes?" she asks herself again. She panics.

Elisa wants to tell them to stop. She wants to stop the rehearsal and get everybody to put on their costumes. She tries to shout but she can only whisper. She is sweating and she can't move. She can only watch and listen.

"Listen to the music. Enjoy the singing. Watch the dancing". She can hear a friendly and kind voice in her head calming her down.

"The musicians know the music. The singers know the lyrics. The dancers know the moves," the voice says. "Just enjoy it!"

She relaxes and her mind gets lost in what she sees. What happens on stage is really joyful and pleasant. The result is magical. When the dancing, the singing and the music finish, Elisa feels like she is flying. She gets goosebumps.

"They're wonderful!" she thinks. She is excited and happy.

"All the hard work has paid off!" she thinks. "Even without the costumes. It'll be so much better with the costumes." She is pleased. Now she is calm and peaceful. Everything feels like a dream.

Out of the corner of her eye, she thinks she sees Cantor Johansen, a new student at the school, look at her from the front row.

"That's strange. What's he doing here?" Elisa thinks. She turns around to look more closely, to make sure it's him, but he's not there anymore.

Elisa wakes up in her bed with a wide smile on her face. She takes a deep breath.

"What's just happened?" she asks herself. She looks at the time on her mobile phone.

"I still have twelve hours before the dress rehearsal this evening!" she thinks. "I'm not going to be late. Will Cantor be there?"



**1 Answer the following questions.**

**a** Where is Elisa?

\_\_\_\_\_

**b** Why is she there?

\_\_\_\_\_

**c** What are the actors wearing?

\_\_\_\_\_

**d** What does Elisa try to do?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2 True (T) or False (F)?**

**a** ☐ Elisa is very late for the rehearsal.

**b** ☐ The actors are wearing their costumes.

**c** ☐ Elisa wants the rehearsal to stop.

**d** ☐ Elisa likes the music and the singing.

**3 What does the phrase in bold mean? Choose *a* or *b*.**

**1** She walks into the theatre lobby **in the nick of time**.

**a** just before something important happens

**b** just after something important has happened

**2** This project was **a dream come true** for her.

**a** something that she often saw in her dreams at night

**b** something that she really wanted to do and has now achieved it

**4 Continue the story.**

“I’m not going to be late. Will Cantor be there?”

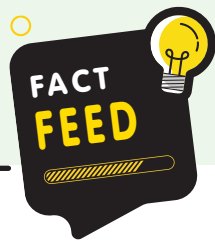
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## Prepare a Show

Elisa is anxious about the School Theatre Club rehearsal. How difficult is it to prepare and put on a show? Can it be a fun project? It can be enjoyable for people who can act, sing or dance. Also, it can be fun for people who can sing, play an instrument or write music. But, it can also be exciting for people who can write scripts, build theatre sets or design and make costumes.

How do you prepare a show? Here are 5 easy steps:

1. Decide where and when you want to have the show. This is the most important step. It'll help you decide what kind of show you can actually prepare. A small theatre means a smaller show than a bigger theatre. A small theatre needs fewer actors, dancers and singers to fill the stage.
2. Decide what kind of show you want to prepare. Is it a classical play? Is it a modern comedy? Is it a detective story? Is it a drama? Is it a musical? This will help you decide the number and kind of actors you need. It'll also guide you with what kind of help and how much help you need for the show.
3. Decide the role for each volunteer. You may have more people who want to be in the show than you really need. So, you need to choose. This may be difficult because some people will be happy and others will be disappointed. You will need people to help you with the selection.
4. Decide on the important dates for rehearsals and other preparations. How much time do actors need to learn their lines? How much time do dancers need to learn their moves? How much time do singers and musicians need to learn the lyrics and the music? How many rehearsals do you need? When does the scenery need to be ready? How much time does making the costumes take?
5. Decide on practical details. What kind of programme are you going to have and who will prepare it? How many people are you going to invite and who will take care of that? Who will help people coming to the show to find their seats? Who is going to clean up after the show?

Remember that, before a show, you never wish people good luck. You always tell them to 'break a leg!'

### 1 Fill in the right word from the text.

- a The place where a show happens.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b The people who give their time to help prepare a show.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c The people who play the music in a show. \_\_\_\_\_
- d The clothes that people wear in a show. \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 True (T) or False (F)?

- ☐ The first part of preparing a show is choosing a place and time.
- ☐ It's easy to decide what each person will do to prepare a show.
- ☐ You need to know how long it takes for actors to learn their lines.
- ☐ Saying 'break a leg' is bad luck in the theatre.

### 3 What do you think?

Choosing volunteers for a show can be difficult.

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## Where to Next?

Sheena's Nightmare

p.8





# 1

## Happy Dreams & Nightmares

### Sheena's Nightmare



Sheena is walking home. Heavy, grey clouds cover the sky. A few warning raindrops hit her face and she can hear thunder rolling in the distance.

"I must get home fast," she thinks. "I'm not dressed for heavy rain."

Slowly, the wind gets stronger, the rain heavier and the thunder louder following several flashes of lightning.

"I must stay calm," she thinks. "It looks like it's going to rain cats and dogs."

---

Heavy rain is falling hard and there is lots of water coming downhill on the street. The wind is so strong now that it's moving chairs from nearby gardens. Sheena pulls her jacket over her head and starts walking faster towards her house. However, her feet are sinking in the mud. She can move them, but only with difficulty. She wants to run, but she finds she can't.

"Don't panic. Don't try to run. Small steady steps are best," says the voice in her head.

The street is almost flooded now. The rainwater coming downhill is pushing hard at her feet. She tries to find something to hold on to. There is a tree branch floating by.

"I can use that," she thinks. She grabs it and uses the branch to steady herself.

"There you go. This branch will help you walk," the voice in her head adds. "You can see your house already."

Her house is not very far, but she needs to hurry. The storm is getting worse. The moving water makes walking really tricky. Her light clothes are wet and she feels chilled to the bone. She takes a few steps, trying to keep her balance. Again, she feels her feet get stuck in the mud. Every step she takes is very hard, almost painful.

"Don't panic!" the voice repeats. "One step at a time."

The rushing water now reaches her knees. She feels her legs growing weak.

She uses the tree branch as a walking stick, pushing it hard into the mud.

"I must hold on to the stick!" she thinks. "The house isn't far now."

"That's better," she hears the voice in her head. The rushing water has reached her waist.

"I'll be strong," she thinks.

There's a flash of lightning that almost blinds her. She can see her house a couple of steps away, but the water makes it harder to reach it by the minute.

"You can do it," she hears the voice say.

"I'm almost there," she thinks. Her feet are on solid ground now. She gets out of the water as she climbs the steps to the front door of the house. There is another flash of lightning. Out of the corner of her eye, she thinks she can see Vilicus Johansen, a new student at the school, watching her from a distance. She steadies herself on the top step and turns round to look carefully. Nobody's there.

Sheena jumps up and gets out of her bed with a loud scream. She is sweating and breathing heavily.

"What's just happened?" she asks herself. She looks outside her window and sees the moon shining in the clear night sky.

"That was the worst nightmare I've had in a long time!" she thinks. "But it was the first time I had help from someone. What was Vilicus doing in my dream?"





**1 Answer the following questions.**

**a** Where is Sheena?

\_\_\_\_\_

**b** Why is she there?

\_\_\_\_\_

**c** What is the weather like?

\_\_\_\_\_

**d** What does Sheena try to do?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2 True (T) or False (F)?**

**a** ☐ Sheena can run in the flooded street.

**b** ☐ Sheena needs something to hold on to.

**c** ☐ Sheena is far from her home.

**d** ☐ The rushing water has reached up to Sheena's knees.

**3 What does the phrase in bold mean? Choose a or b.**

**1** It looks like it's going to **rain cats and dogs**.

**a** rain for a long time

**b** rain very heavily

**2** She feels **chilled to the bone**.

**a** really surprised

**b** very cold

**3** **Out of the corner of her eye**, she thinks she can see Vilicus Johansen.

**a** Without looking straight at him

**b** In her imagination

**4 Continue the story.**

"But it was the first time I had help from someone.

What was Vilicus doing in my bad dream?"

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## AMCIZED

is a series of original stories featuring four teenagers as they progress through school and university. What sets these stories apart is the reader's ability to choose what happens next, moving forwards or backwards in the series of events. Each chapter also includes factual information relevant to the story.

## VISIONS!

follows Sheena, her brother, Paul, and their friends, Elisa and Jonathan, on an amazing adventure. When the four teenagers meet Cantor and Vilicus Johansen, twin brothers with special powers, it's the beginning of an exciting journey full of mystery. Together, the six teens explore dreams and nightmares by day and by night.

As the story develops, Sheena and her friends try to discover the truth behind the twins' powers. Who are the people trying to control the twins and use their special gift to get what they want? What role does Vigil Johansen, the twins' uncle, play in the story? How are two important businessmen involved? Will the four friends save the twins in the end?

Join Sheena, Paul, Elisa and Jonathan as they try to help their new friends through a world of dreams and nightmares.

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A1/A2



A2/B1



B1/B2

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