Backstage Drama

(1) I couldn't believe my ears when I heard my name called for the leading role in our high school play. (2) Mrs. Dermitt was my drama teacher. (3) She had been looking for someone to play a spunky young woman named Nadine in a comedy set in the 1950s. (4) Fortunately for me, she thought that I could handle the part.

(5) That afternoon my friend Kelly and I talked excitedly about the play. (6) Although Kelly hadn't been chosen for a part onstage her job with the set crew was important to the success of the play. (7) I told her I was a little nervous because I had a lot of lines to memorize.

(8) “You can do it,” she said. (9) “I'll help you.” (10) I knew I could count on hers; we had been friends since the third grade, and we made a good team.

(11) Preparation for the play moved at a rapid pace. (12) Kelly worked hard with the set crew, but she also spent hours helping me learning my lines. (13) I noticed she often said my lines with me by silently moving her lips. (14) We joked that she could probably play my part as well as I could.

(15) Three days before opening night, we were all ready. (16) All the actors knew there lines, the programs were ready for distribution, and the costumes and the set were complete. (17) But when I woke up with a fever and sore throat on the day of the play, the entire production came to a sudden halt. (18) Everyone in the drama department was frantic. (19) There was no way I could perform. (20) Once before, I had had strep throat. (21) The play was due to open in fewer than six hours, and we had no time to cancel. (22) They would arrive and immediately be turned away at the door.
At home in bed, I tried to think of a way to help. Then it hit me—Kelly knew the lines as well as I did. I called Mrs. Dermitt to give her my suggestion. Within a few short hours, Kelly stood onstage in costume and makeup. She gave a spectacular performance. The crowd laughed and cheered as she spoke the witty lines she had rehearsed with me so many times. In a strange turn of events, Kelly and I had saved the day for everyone by working as a team. Of course, I was terribly disappointed to have missed my chance in the spotlight. But incredibly grateful to have such a good friend.