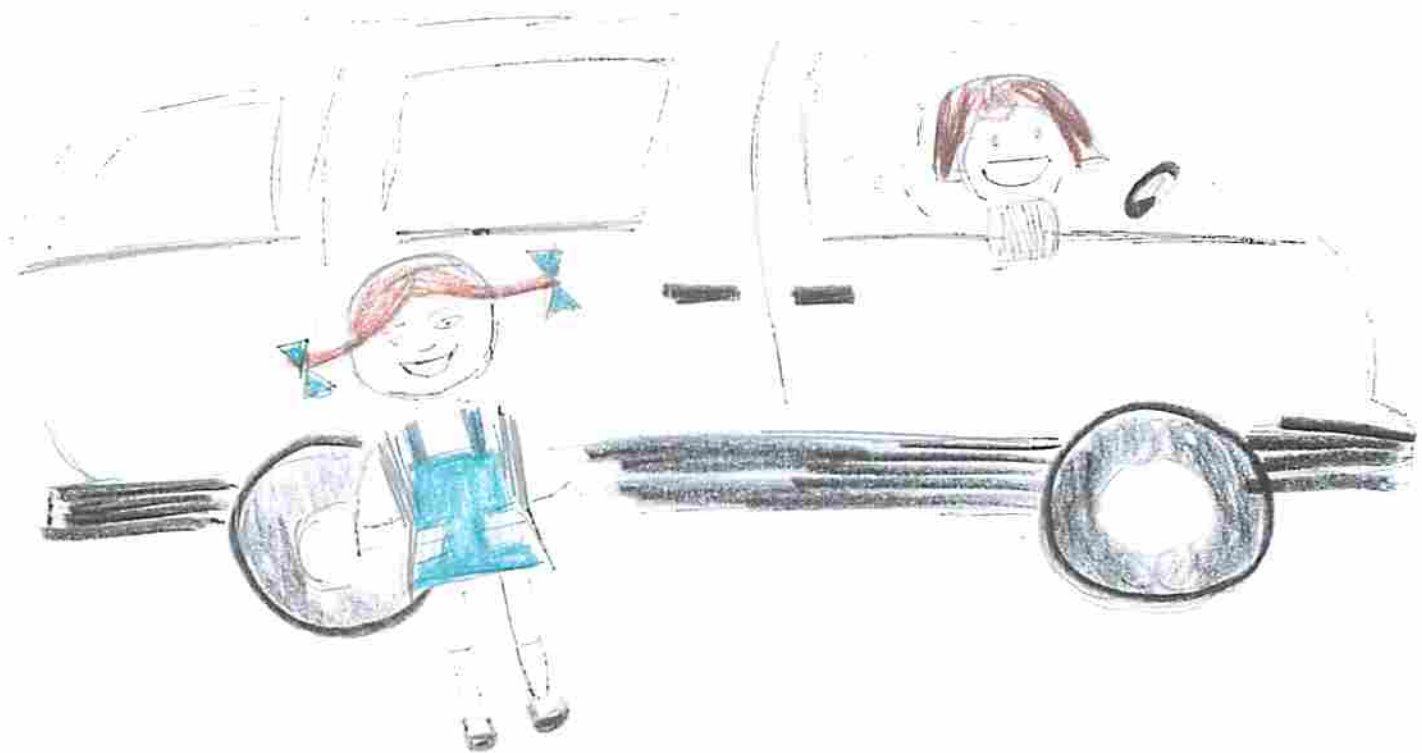


Lola

Crayola

Goes to

Music Class



Lola Crayola loved school. She especially loved the first day of school every year. It was the first day of the fourth grade, and she was so excited. Fourth grade was the year that her and her classmates would finally start music class.

Her mom dropped her off at school she ran into the classroom as quickly as she could. She got to the room and sat in the very front row. She wanted to be the first to pick out an instrument.



The bell rang, and the other kids hurried in, finding their places on the rug around the teacher.

"Hello, class," said the teacher. "My name is Ms. Bass and I'm going to be your music instructor this year."

"Hello Ms. Bass," the students all responded.

"To start off, can any one name any instruments?" Ms. Bass asked. The children's hands shot up instantaneously. Every single hand in the room was raised.

"Piano!" one girl screamed.

"Recorder," another piped in.

"Drums," yelled a boy in the back row.

This went on for a while until there was only one hand left: Lola's. She had been waiting for her turn to fascinate the class with her knowledge of the viola. She wanted to tell them about how she saw a girl in the park who could play "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and the time her mom brought her home a mini-violin Christmas ornament. When Ms. Bass called on her, Lola simply said, "Viola" Instead of the whole class staring at her in admiration, one girl laughed, "Haha, what instrument is that? Only weirdos know weird instruments!"

The rest of the class laughed with her, and Lola sat there, ashamed. She turned away from her classmates and thought to herself, *but I love the viola...*





For the rest of the day, the class discussed instruments and which ones they wanted to play. Most of the girls chose the clarinet, while boys chose trumpet and cello. But no one besides Lola wanted to play the viola.

She looked around the room and saw everyone holding an instrument, laughing with their friends, while she sat in the corner, plucking away at a string on her viola.



Ms. Bass came over to her and asked her what was wrong. Lola said, "I don't know what instrument to play. All the other kids make fun of me because I like the viola..." Lola looked down to her lap, fiddling with her hands. She had looked forward to this day for so long, and she wanted to play the viola, but she was somehow embarrassed for liking the instrument so much.

Ms. Bass looked at Lola, and said, "Don't listen to the other kids. The viola is one of the greatest instruments in the world! And for our in-class recital in two weeks, you can play for the whole class, and I promise you, they will love it."

Lola was hesitant. She liked what Ms. Bass had told her, but wasn't sure if her classmates would change their minds. After a couple of days, she decided she would practice as hard as she could, and hoped that her classmates would beg her to teach them about the viola.



She practiced all the time. During recess, when she got home from school, even in the morning when her parents weren't even awake yet. Lola Crayola loved the viola.

During music class, she would practice out in the hall by herself. She wanted to surprise her classmates with something special at the recital.

Recital Day in MUSIC CLASS!



When the day of the recital came, Lola sat in the front row of the classroom. The other kids came in and sat down in back of her.



Some of the other kids played their instruments, each of them squeaking on their clarinet, or playing a wrong note on their cello. When everyone else in the class had performed, Lola stood up and got her viola and bow out of its case. Even though she was nervous, Lola stood up tall and placed the viola on her left shoulder and the bow in her right hand. She placed the bow carefully on the viola and began to move it back and forth across the **strings**. The sound that came out of it was amazing.





One girl gasped.

Another sat in the front row with her jaw hanging open.

Lola continued playing until her rendition of “Mary Had A Little Lamb” was done. She removed her viola from her shoulder and looked around the room. All of a sudden, her classmates started clapping. One of them yelled, “WOW! That’s *so* cool!”

Another asked, “Can I try to play it? Will you teach me?”



Her classmates began to swarm around her, asking her all sorts of questions. Lola happily answered them to the best of her ability. She stood around and taught a couple kids how to hold the viola, how to make a sound. After a while, Ms. Bass chimed in, “Okay kids, how about another round of applause for Lola.”

The whole class cheered. They loved every single note Lola had played and all wanted to learn the viola. They begged and begged Ms. Bass to teach them.

The bell rang for recess, and Lola sat, staring at her viola, smiling. One of the girls came back in and yelled “Come on Lola, let’s go play outside!” With that, Lola placed her viola in its case and ran outside to play with her new friends.