

# Feet of Dreams

AN ACADEMY FOR FLAWLESS DANCERS



# ***Feet Of Dreams***

(An Academy for Flawless Dancers)

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# **About the Author**

Aliya is a grade 4 student at Ecole Mondiale World School. Her passion for writing stems from her love for reading. This is her first attempt at writing a chaptered book. Her inspiration to write this book comes from one of her favourite hobbies, dancing. She loves to dance and believes that we should dance to express and not to impress. This book is loosely based and inspired from her real life friends and teachers. She hopes it's enjoyed by one and all.

# **Special Thanks**

To all my friends and teachers for providing the inspiration to write this book. Without you all, this book wouldn't be possible. A special thanks to my Grade 4 teacher - Miss Alaviya Shaikh.

# Characters

## Students

Nicky  
Julia  
Kelly  
Nita  
Alira  
Mirabelle

## Teachers

Mrs. Amelia  
Miss Evie  
Miss Sonavia  
Miss Shannon  
Miss Aria  
Miss Clara  
Miss Claire  
Miss Emma  
Principal Stasha



Name: **Nicky**  
Comes from: **New York**  
Passion: **Sports**  
Misses home for: **Her friends and family**  
Favourite dance form: **Hip Hop**  
Strengths: **Sports**  
Weakness: **Impatient**



Name: **Julia**  
Comes from: **Paris**  
Passion: **Fashion**  
Misses home for: **Shopping and her family**  
Favourite dance form: **Ballet**  
Strengths: **Fashion styling**  
Weakness: **Fussy and selective**



Name: **Kelly**  
Comes from: **Dubai**  
Passion: **Food**  
Misses home for: **Large  
homemade meals,  
family and friends**  
Favourite dance form:  
**Jazz**  
Strengths: **Cooking**  
Weakness: **Short  
Tempered**



Name: **Nita**  
Comes from: **India**  
Passion: **Arts and  
crafts**  
Misses home for: **Her  
family and friends**  
Favourite dance form:  
**Aerial**  
Strengths: **Creativity**  
Weakness: **A bit lazy**



Name: **Alira**

Comes from: **Rio De Janeiro**

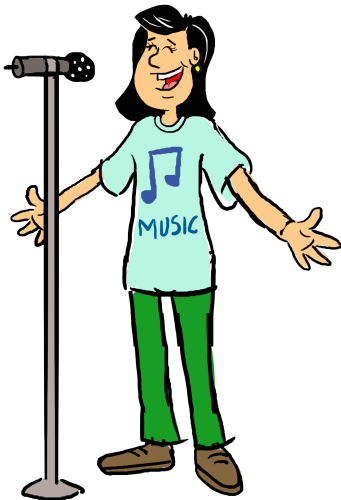
Passion: **Nature and animals**

Misses home for: **Her private mini garden and pets**

Favourite dance form: **Flamenco**

Strengths: **Creativity**

Weakness: **Too shy**



Name: **Mirabelle**

Comes from: **London**

Passion: **Music (especially opera singing)**

Misses home for: **Her family and concerts**

Favourite dance form: **Jazz**

Strengths: **Vocals**

Weakness: **Too chatty**



Teacher: ***Mrs. Amelia***

Country: ***Spain***

Teaches: ***Flamenco***

Likability meter on 1 to

10: **6**



Teacher: ***Miss Evie***

Country: ***UK (London City)***

Teaches: ***Ballet***

Likability meter on 1 to

10: **9**





Teacher: **Miss Sonavia**

Country: **USA**

Teaches: **Jazz**

Likability meter on 1 to

10: **4.5**



Teacher: **Miss**

**Shannon**

Country: **New Zealand**

Teaches: **Aerial**

Likability meter on 1 to

10: **7**



Teacher: **Miss Aria**

Country: **USA (New York City)**

Teaches: **Hip Hop**

Likability meter on 1 to 10: **9**



Teacher: **Miss Clara**

Country: **Cuba**

Teaches: **Salsa**

Likability meter on 1 to 10: **5**



Teacher: **Miss Claire**

Country: **Brazil**

Teaches: **Samba**

Likability meter on 1 to

10: **6.5**



Teacher: **Miss Emma**

Country: **India**

Teaches: **Kathak**

Likability meter on 1 to

10: **7**



***Principal Stasha***

Country: ***Italy***

Likability meter on 1 to

10: **3**

# Chapters

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## Drop Off

It was the first day of a new academic year, at the Feet of Dreams Academy. The school bell was going off, students were murmuring and the teachers were chattering. Many students' mothers came to drop them off, but it was not as smooth as they may have thought it would be. For instance, Julia told

her mother to stay at the gate and not send her off like a baby. Whereas, Kelly's mother reminded Kelly to fill herself up and not stay hungry. Nicky's mother told Nicky to call her every evening during recess. Everyone had something different to say to each other.

As everyone stepped in, the teachers were handing out forms, which had some personal details to be filled out and the dorm numbers they were in. A group of six girls found themselves in the same dorm. After getting to know each other's names, they started setting their room up. There was a lot of work to do before the Principal's welcoming speech. Time was running out.

The students started heading to their dorms and soon reached their rooms. After a while, the walls had posters of everything the students liked, their clothes were put in the wardrobes, pillows and blankets on their beds and the room was full of colour! It was marvellous! Everyone had a smile on their faces and they breathed a sigh of relief! "Phew! We sure did some hard work girls. But I think we should give it a bit more sporty look, don't you agree?" exclaimed Nicky. The others groaned. Julia had an idea. She said, "Instead of giving it a sporty look, we should give it a more French look."

Everyone moaned except her. Alira said that she would love to make the dorm more pet friendly.

Mirabelle had had enough of it. She said in an unfriendly tone, “There is going to be no more animal, fashion or sports posters.” The others agreed.

Kelly said, “Guys, if you don’t mind, can we just stick to what we have done and go down quickly? I’m pretty famished.” Everyone laughed. They were going to have the time of their lives in the academy!





# **Principal Stasha**

“Good afternoon students and welcome to the academy. I hope you have settled in and are comfortable in your dorms. I am very happy that

you all chose our academy, as it will teach you a lot about dance. Please come down to the main hall. The teachers will help you with any doubts you may have.” The students placed their bets on the voice being Principal Stasha or an automated machine. Everyone headed towards the main hall.

As all got seated, the Principal began with her speech. “Good afternoon students! My name is Principal Stasha and I welcome you to the Feet Of Dreams Academy. The teachers and I are here to make sure you reach the full potential of your dancing abilities in these three fantastic long years. Thank you for choosing us! In the academy you will learn only with the group assigned to you. You’ll be allowed to go out of this academy twice a year. You all will definitely get recess and time to eat food too. But, there is one very strict rule - No pets allowed in this academy. If anyone here catches someone who has a pet, they will tell me straight away.” The girls didn’t quite like the Principal. Principal Stasha had an irritating habit of spitting while she spoke. She wore red coloured high heels that made screeching noises when it came in contact with the floor.

It was not only them who hated it, but the entire academy covered their faces when she talked, and closed their ears while she walked. Even the

teachers wanted to do the same but couldn't, as the Principal was right next to them. After Principal Stasha was done with the speech, she told the teachers to take over. The teachers came up and spoke a bit about themselves and the dance form they would be teaching. From all the teachers, three teachers stood out for the students.

The first teacher came on stage. "Hi guys! My name is Miss Evie, and I teach ballet! I'm from London itself and I love to teach kids. I wanna tell you'll a secret; if we manage to get our work done properly every class, the class gets 10 minutes to dance freely, or play a game! ." Everyone applauded.

Then another teacher arrived. "Good afternoon students. My name is Miss Sonavia and I am going to teach you jazz. There is one rule everyone must follow in my class. That is being disciplined. If anyone is mischievous they will not dance till the class is over. Now, I am looking forward to seeing you all tomorrow" she ended with a heavy American accent. Everyone giggled in the crowd. She didn't know why and simply ignored.

The next teacher to come on stage was Miss Aria. "Good afternoon kiddos! I teach hip-hop. In every class of mine, there is going to be a different warm

up, but for now the warm up is ten push-ups. I hope you enjoy my class and for this week, don't forget to practice your push-ups!"

Principal Stasha then announced, "Students, you are all dismissed. You can go and have lunch." The students rushed out of the hall, and dashed towards the cafeteria as they were all starving and famished.



# The Cafeteria

The cafeteria was buzzing with noise. The girls were lucky as they were fifth in the long queue. The cafeteria served all kinds of cuisines. There was of Indian, Mexican, Italian, Chinese and much more. They loaded their plates with whatever they could and sat at the first empty table they found. As they were eating, the six girls got to know a lot more

about each other. Once they finished a little chitchat about their lives, Julia was the first to start a conversation on a new topic. “Anyone here interested to help me choose and design outfits for you guys? I can help you dress up better.” She added, looking excited.

“Don’t forget to help me choose an outfit for hip hop class tomorrow. I am really looking forward to stretching those muscles,” replied Nicky.

“I could help Julia draw the designs.” Nita volunteered.

“Keep it for later girls, I’m trying to eat.” Kelly reminded. They all giggled.

“I think the Principal is too strict!” Mirabelle joked.

“No pets allowed, you are only here to learn dance, not manners”, she imitated. They chuckled. Julia said that Mirabelle was just too funny and should work on her jokes to entertain people and that she could be popular. Mirabelle thanked her, but in Miss Sonavia’s American accent. The girls cracked up. Kelly still felt hungry. Her stomach made weird noises.

“Are you okay? Do you need medication?” Alira questioned.

Kelly groaned, “It’s just my stomach. I am quite hungry.”

“Alira, don’t you like animals and birds?” Nita asked.

“Birds and animals are just so last season in their looks. They seriously need a makeover”, said Julia disgustingly. She said “No offence!” quite a few times after all the mean sentences about animals. “I find birds quite pretty!” replied Mirabelle and Nita.

“Especially when you sing about them”, added Mirabelle. She was about to start singing, but all of them stared at her, so she didn’t. Nita said that she loved art herself and that is what actually makes her connect with life. They had a hearty meal and went back to their dorms to rest.



# The Silent Treatment

That night, they slept soundly as they wanted to be as fresh as daisies for their packed schedule the day after. In the morning, the girls woke up refreshed, and ready to start a new day in the academy. As the



girls were stepping out, Julia complained that there were weird noises the night before and she could not sleep properly. She even said she couldn't stop sneezing, coughing and her nose was blocked because of a nasty stench.

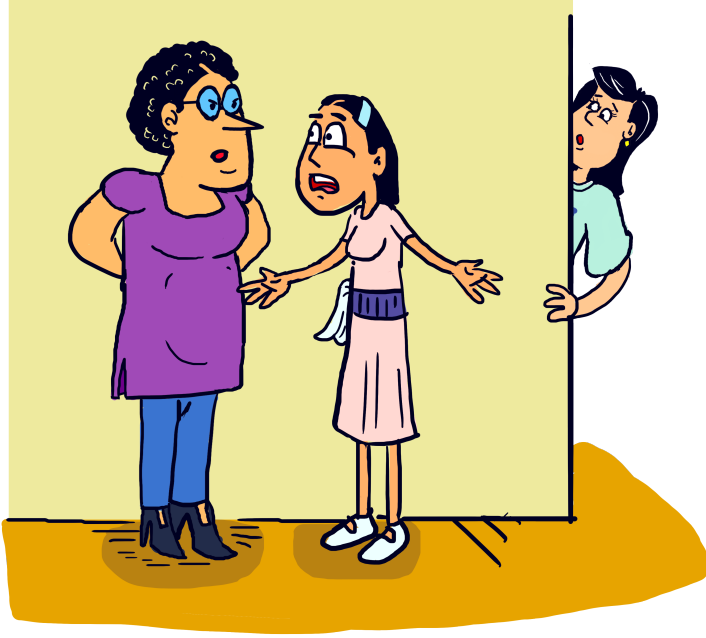
After hearing those words, Mirabelle barely spoke that day. The girls thought she was just being peaceful and minding her own business. But no, the friends were wrong about Mirabelle. After half the classes went by, it was finally lunch and they were dismissed. The girls expected Mirabelle to at least talk in the break, but no. She didn't utter a word.

They all wanted an explanation but obviously didn't get one. Alira and Nita were just being silent and not wanting to get into a conflict as they could've made it worse. After a while, everyone gave up.

The girls were begging Mirabelle to talk, offering her some food, and even pleading her but she still didn't talk. The others were fed up. Nicky was losing her temper. She was about to blow up! Her face was as red as a ripe tomato! Alira told Nicky to calm down and relax. The condition was that she had to speak up and tell her friends about her silence and why she was quiet all day. The others agreed. Mirabelle shook her head in disagreement.

Everyone sighed. They had tried everything, from begging to pleading to ultimately, now, blackmailing.

As the day passed by, the janitor knocked on their door. “Girls, please don’t make your room so messy and untidy next time. It was a lot of work for me to get everything neat and organised again. The footprints were the hardest part. Please make sure you are neat and clean next time so that I have limited work to do. Muddy footprints, untidy room, dusty shelves, unorganised cupboard and changing the sheets off your bed, that’s a lot of work to do!” she exaggerated. The girls just looked at each other and shrugged. They asked Mirabelle if she had something to do with it but she shrugged her shoulders as if nothing had happened. They carried on with their schedule trying to forget about what the janitor had told them.



## **Mirabelle's Secret**

The next morning, all six of them were called to the Principal's office. It seemed that the janitor was laying out the sheets and had to put their bags somewhere else. As she carried Mirabelle's bag she could smell a peculiar dog smell. She had

immediately gone to tell the Principal what she had discovered. “Ma’am, this girl has clearly disobeyed the rules. She has got an animal to this academy!” cried the janitor.

“Why are you wasting my time on such useless matters?” questioned the Principal. “Ma’am, just trust me, I can really show you,” replied the janitor. The janitor showed her the bag.

“Where is that ‘peculiar dog smell’ coming from?” questioned the Principal.

“In the pockets Ma’am”, replied the janitor.

The Principal nodded and opened the first pocket, the second, the third and in the fourth, she found a cute little innocent pocket puppy sleeping on the soft leather. She gently removed the puppy and placed it on her desk. She was shocked! “Please find that girl and all of her friends and tell them to come to my office in exactly ten minutes”

The janitor hurried. She said, “Mirabelle, the Principal is calling you and your friends to her office. You better be there in less than ten minutes!” Mirabelle was frightened. She knew something bad

was about to happen. Before she entered the Principal's cabin, she took a deep breath.

“Should I just run away from here or should I go in?” she thought to herself. She made her choice; she entered the room.

“Mirabelle, it's come to my notice that you have brought an animal to the academy. Is that true?”, the Principal questioned her. Mirabelle kept quiet. The Principal repeated, “Is it true?”  
“Yes, Ma'am,” Mirabelle replied sad and glum.

“Can all the girls except Mirabelle just step out? I'll call the rest later” requested the Principal. The girls quietly stepped out of the room confused. “Now, to get started with, why did you even get a pet to the dance academy?” the Principal wanted to know.

“I didn't know about the ‘No pets allowed in this academy’ rule” Mirabelle said.

“Maybe next time you should not be lazy and check the school rules before you join!” said the Principal, disgusted. “Now, after all that has happened, you are not even guilty enough to apologise not just to me, but the janitors who had to clean all the mess!” scolded the Principal. Ashamed, Mirabelle

apologised. “As a suitable punishment, we shall call your parents to have a word with you and think of a way you can make it up to all these people who you have inconvenienced!” the Principal bellowed. Her face was so red that it was about to explode like a volcano. As per the consequences stated by the Principal, Mirabelle’s parents were called in to have a session with the Principal and herself.

“Mirabelle, you ought to be ashamed of yourself. Bringing a pet to the academy, breaking the rules and most importantly not even seeking permission from us,” Mirabelle’s mother screeched. Everyone closed their ears as her voice echoed throughout the school. “Sorry, I have apologised to the Principal a million times already!” replied Mirabelle in a loud and agitated voice.

“How dare you raise your voice against your mother like that Mirabelle!” yelled her Father.

“Do you want to go to kindergarten again to learn manners?” asked her Mother, irritated. The Principal was petrified of Mirabelle’s parents.

“I’m just going to get some coffee,” she lied, only to get out of that room. The session continued. Finally, after everyone was burning hot and fiery red,

Mirabelle apologized. But she didn't just say sorry, she said that she meant it from the bottom of her heart and when her parents didn't believe her she really started crying and she kept apologizing.

“Sorry, sorry, sorry, SORRY!” she cried! Soon, the torture ended and Mirabelle's parents left to go back home with her pet dog.



## **The Usual Schedule**

The next day Mirabelle was a bit glum as she was really missing her dog but didn't have time to sulk, as she had a busy schedule ahead of her. After a



while, she got over it and went to join her friends to get ready for jazz, the very first class of that day!

The girls entered the dance class merrily and began their warm ups. Miss Sonavia counted, “One- jazz hands! Two- slice hands! Three- fists! And lastly- pose! Good job girls. At least today you remember your warm ups. Now, we start with our leftover dance, 1, 2, 3, go!” she said as if she was the conductor of a marathon. The girls started their dance routine with a couple of mistakes but were soon thorough. They were dancing on a song by Smokey Joe’s Cafe named ‘On Broadway’.

After their jazz class was over, they went on to their next class, ballet. Before going in, they had to do a quick change of clothes. They came in and started their warm ups. The students did six side stretches, three on the right and three on the left, each side was also for three minutes. They did their two full splits, each for about two and a half minutes.

After they finished their exercises, they started doing their jumps, twirls, sautes, pas de chats and arabesques. While leaping in the air, Alira had a minor injury. Her wrist muscle got pulled, it was a bit sore and she couldn’t dance for the rest of the day. She spent the whole day just wrapping her

wrist in a napkin soaked with ice cubes! Her five friends asked her how she felt and even cheered her up. The day passed away quickly. The next day, Alira was much better. She could do everything except hand movements and stretches.



# The Week of Halloween

The same day, there was an announcement made by the Principal, “Good afternoon students! This week, on account of Halloween, we are arranging for some

fun activities, games, food and a fancy dress competition on Halloween night which is this Friday!”

For the rest of the day the six friends were too happy to control their excitement. That very night, when all the girls returned to their room, there was so much chit chat going on between them that you could barely grasp a word or two.

“Julia, since you are so good with fashion, why don’t you give us options of dresses? We will select and help you make them in time for the competition!” said Nicky.

“That’s a very good idea actually. And even I can help Julia draw the designs quick enough for the competition!” added Nita, shyly.

“Maybe we all can help Julia by telling her what we want so that Nita can sketch it, Julia makes it and then poof! It’s ready!” said Mirabelle excitedly. They kept talking and talking. And fell asleep amongst all that chitter chatter.

The process of making all the dresses for the Fancy Dress Competition lasted for a few days. Every day, one girl would go and tell Nita and Julia their ideas.

Nicky wanted to be a vampire, whereas Alira's costume idea was a pumpkin. Mirabelle's costume was of a siren- a creature whose voice sounds so good as they reach others but yet so bad. They are evil creatures. Kelly's costume was of a witch; Julia's costume was of a nymph, whereas Nita's was a ghoul.

After days of sewing and stitching, all the costumes were ready. As the friends tried them on, they noticed that the character they dressed up as and Julia's designs combined, matched their personalities too. They all looked stunning! The day passed by quickly due to all the costume rehearsals and the makeup try-outs. By the time they all got it over with, it was time for dinner.

The next morning, the six girls had a fresh start ahead of them and they headed for their classes. They were grading high and everyone including the teachers were satisfied. Everything seemed so different because of the Halloween excitement! The girls had never seen people so merry and joyful before! They looked around as everyone was practicing their usual dance routines peacefully. There was such a change that instead of chaos, there was joy all around! "Wow, I've never seen so

much happiness anywhere!” exclaimed Nicky enthusiastically.

Alira said, “This sight is really worth seeing! I’m so loving this moment.”

They enthusiastically went frolicking to the cafeteria as it was five minutes to snack time. The girls noticed that everyone seemed to be talking to each other about the food and the activities during that week. Following others, they started a new conversation about all the fun things that were going to occur that week. While discussing, they were waiting in the queue for their food. As they came closer, they noticed that the menu had changed. Instead of all the normal tacos and salads, there was pumpkin soup, burgers with spider shaped cutlets, fish and chips and some googly eyed olives, blood red cherry tomatoes and even crooked potatoes in the salad bowl! There were witch, frog and worm shaped gummies for dessert! Kelly questioned, “Is it just me, or has the chef retired and a new chef made all this just for me? Dreams really do come true!” she added, looking up to the ceiling.

“No silly, remember it’s due to Halloween. Firstly, it’s not for just you, it’s for all of us”, reminded Julia giggling.

“Sorry. You know how much of a foodie I am!” Kelly playfully joked.

The games everyone played were really fun too. They played games like pin the horns on the monster, find the spider, hide and creep and lastly they went trick or treating to all the classes. All students got a pile of candies in a bag. Then, turn-by-turn every few classes went trick or treating together.



# Something Fishy

Finally, Halloween day arrived! Everyone woke up with excitement awaiting the celebrations that night! They were keen to start the day fresh and happy! The six friends all woke up with a huge smile on their faces. They got changed quickly and



started to proceed to their first class of the day! Instead of practicing their normal routine they had to do spooky dances individually while dancing on eerie music. Many of their peers got creeped out.

At lunch, they were waiting in the queue when they saw a gang of three mean girls shoving everyone at the back of the line and cutting to go forward.

Everyone called them ‘Bullies!’ Most of the students were frightened of them, so they didn’t say anything. It was all so messed up! The girls couldn’t stand others getting bullied on Halloween!

Although they wanted to defend everyone, they knew it would just become worse and they would get in trouble. So, they simply walked ahead not looking at the drama and went with the queue.

At recess, they wondered who and where those other three girls were. It’s like they just vanished into thin air. The six friends had a bad feeling about whatever had just happened. But, there was barely anytime for the Fancy Dress Competition to begin. The six friends were desperate to win. As they got ready, Julia noticed that her dress had torn from the side. She knew that her friends hadn’t done it as they were there with her the whole time, but then

who had? She was so tensed. If she appeared for the competition like that, she would definitely lose. She kept thinking of what to do when she had an idea! She had made a fabulous new style for her costume! Crosses and stitches together- She quickly stitched the side, except her shoulders where she crossed. It's coming together in time for the competition. "I hope we can make it in time", cried Alira nervously. Kelly positively said, "Don't worry it'll all be fine, you'll see"

As Julia got done and everybody was ready, it was finally time for the competition to begin! All students were jittery as they entered the Grand Hall in the academy and took their seats. All teams sat together. "Are you sure that we have chances of winning?" asked Nita.

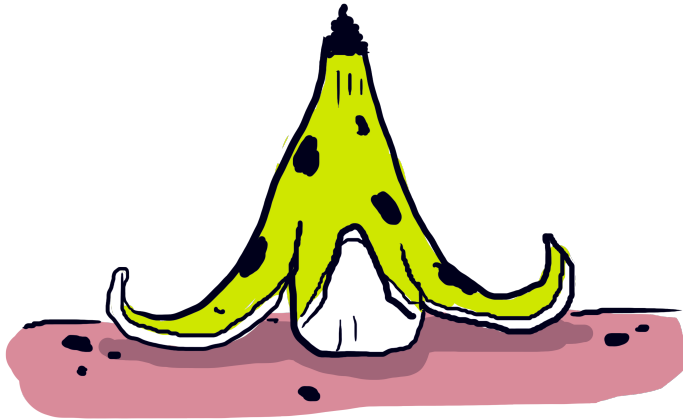
"I'm hundred percent sure that we are going to win as Julia made the costumes and obviously she's the best at what she does!" replied Kelly, who was sitting next to her. Then suddenly the lights became dim and the Principal strode to the front of the stage. "Welcome students and teachers, I present to you the Halloween Fancy Dress Competition!" There were a few rounds of applause and then pin drop silence. "Now before we get going, there are a few things we need to clarify first", said the

Principal strictly. “Firstly, everyone has to show appropriate behaviour, at a time like now. There should be no fighting between all of you” she exclaimed. “Secondly, no one is allowed to cheat or pull pranks.” After about 4 rules, the competition started. The teachers would write marks in their books for each team based on their idea, the theme and how many changes they could’ve made. The teachers marked this down as the students came up on stage, posed, told the judges who they were dressed as, and then went backstage. There was even music and some food to eat! Finally, everyone was done and the judges were deciding the scores.

“We’ll start from third place. Team 3, you are Sharanya, Stephanie, Anaya, Maya and Thea! Congratulations. The runners up are Alicia, Chloe and Zoey! Excellent work girls! Now, we have the winners. They are Alira, Kelly, Mirabelle, Nicky, Nita and Julia!!!” The teachers announced. The three teams ran up on stage to take a bow. The third and second teams only received medals and a certificate whereas, the first team got to keep the pumpkin shaped golden trophy!

Everyone was a bit jealous but got over it. The gang of bullies that morning were shocked! How did their plan fail! They were furious and planned to get

their revenge on not only those six girls, but the whole academy! This time they were going far, too far! They ran off stage and back to their seats. They secretly made faces and rolled their eyeballs at the sight of the winning team. The party then began! Everyone was grabbing a bite and a few were on the dance floor! It was so fun! Julia was still curious about the dress mystery but right now she just had to relax and take this to the teachers and Principal the next day.



## **Blame it on The Bad Bullies**

The six friends, had overslept and wouldn't wake up but luckily, it was a Saturday! The girls had only 3 periods of their dance class while, the other part of the day they could rest!

“Good morning sleepyheads!” exclaimed Nicky as she woke up early for a quick jog.

“Please stop yelling when I am having the taste of beauty sleep,” Julia wailed.

“I agree with Julia not offensively but zzz....”  
Mirabelle went back to sleep.

“Please stop arguing and let’s all just sleep,” replied Alira shyly.

“Okay I’ll stop but I’m warning you the dance starts in half an hour so get ready” Exclaimed Nicky, laughing. Hearing this, all the girls rushed out of their beds and started getting ready for their first class of that day. While they were dancing, the three bullies were planning on how they would get back on the Academy and once and for all prove that they were the stars and not some puny little six girls! Their laugh was as cold as the witch who had just succeeded on becoming the most powerful.

“You guys, think of a plan to get revenge on this academy.” Ordered the head of the bullies, Alicia. “Sorry Alicia” replied Zoey, another member of the team.

“We’ll start now,” added Chloe, the last member of the team. They had no ideas for revenge, but they did have a few pranks up their sleeves. They had to

think of sneaky ways to put these malicious plans into action.

After the six friends were done with their class, they went back to their room and started talking. “Do you guys think I should take yesterday’s dress mystery to the Principal?” asked Julia. “Yeah, you should but first you need proof. ” replied Nicky.

“I already have proof. Yesterday, when we won, those bullies made faces and were muttering and didn’t look like they were happy at all,” cried Julia.

“How do you know they were angry about us winning? Maybe they were already in a bad mood,” questioned Nita, joining the conversation.

“Then how come at lunch time yesterday they looked so excited?” asked Julia.

“Oh come on Julia, don’t be so dramatic.”, added Mirabelle, who suddenly looked interested. Julia gave them a blank stare, but then she gave in. She realised she was being a little sensitive about this, it was just a dress!

In the meantime, the three bullies had come up with an idea on how to prank one of the six friends

by making them slip on a banana peel in front of everyone. Alicia had saved a banana peel from the cafeteria. Without anyone looking she placed the banana peel right in front of the six girls' room door. She then imitated the principal and said, "Girls, please come out to the ballet room as I want to talk to you about something". Chloe and Zoey stifled their giggles just before the doorknob turned and the six girls came out, one by one. Nicky came out first, missing the banana peel by a few inches. Then came Julia, not looking down, she slipped on the peel making her land with a thud. Alicia was about to burst out laughing! So were Zoey and Chloe! They were begging Alicia but she gave them a look which forced them not to. But, they sighed so loudly that all six friends could figure out that someone was spying on them and that they had done this on purpose.

"Sorry!" they whispered, together. Julia stood up slowly with the help of her friends. They asked how she was and told her to stay inside the room while they went to get the teachers and the Principal. Nicky stayed inside with Julia. The bullies dashed before they started laughing. They couldn't believe who got targeted! "Are you fine Julia?" asked Nicky.



“Yeah, I guess so,” replied Julia. “I just don’t know what happened. I mean one minute there was the Principal calling us to the ballet room, and the next minute, I slipped and fell,” said Julia. “One thing I really want to know is what was that loud noise that sounded like someone was spying on us. And if the Principal actually did call us, she would have come and helped you up,” said Nicky. “And why would the Principal be behind a pillar instead of wandering in the hallways?” added Nicky.

“Wait a minute, are you thinking what I’m thinking?” said Julia. “That it may have not been the Principal, but instead a student who played a prank on us?” They both said it at the same time. Then they looked at each other. They were fixing the puzzle pieces together.

“Wait a second, what about her voice?” questioned Nicky.

“Dumbo, someone must’ve imitated her voice or sneaked up behind her and recorded it” replied Julia.

“Oh! Now I get it. But they couldn’t have gone behind her and recorded it. She would totally find out!” exclaimed Nicky, understanding.

“Then they must have imitated her. It’s not that hard,” added Julia. They both tried imitating the Principal. In the end it sounded like a duck trying to speak during an avalanche. The girls laughed.

Meanwhile, the other four girls who wanted to meet the Principal sprinted into her cabin. “Ma’am, Julia slipped on something and fell. We need your help.”, said Kelly, panting.

“Ma’am, she’s not joking.” Added Mirabelle.

“Nicky is with Julia to give her company and see if she’s fine.” interrupted Nita. “So I see,” said the Principal. “I shall come as quickly as possible” she cried. The girls sprinted back to their room. Once they saw Julia’s swollen foot, they felt bad.

“Are you okay?” asked Alira.

“Yeah, I’m fine!” replied Julia.

“You need help!” said Kelly.

“Don’t worry, Principal Stasha is coming!” exclaimed Mirabelle.

“Oh, thanks guys. But I’ll be okay soon enough,” assured Julia.

Meanwhile, the three bullies sped back to their dormitory.

“Whew! That was close” Sighed Zoey.

“Yeah. But they wouldn’t have identified that someone was there if you two hadn’t sighed,” Alicia scolded.

“We’re sorry, Alicia. It was just so comical and hilarious that we couldn’t hold it” apologised Chloe. “Don’t forget who we targeted,” added Zoey. By the end, Alicia couldn’t think of anything to blame Chloe and Zoey. They had a point. Everyone gave a weak smile to each other. Alicia forgave them and started laughing. “What’s so funny, Alicia?” Chloe and Zoey asked, together.

Finally, the Principal arrived. By the time she opened the door, her hair was sprouting in different directions and she was holding her red heels in her hands. All the girls looked at her as if she was electrocuted when Harry Styles knocked the door but she didn’t open it. Harry Styles!!!!

“Wow Ma’am! I love the new style. Is it trendy?” asked Nicky, in an unusual voice.

“No. I went for a sprint but then I almost tripped and then...” Principal Stasha said, irritated. She went on and on and on blabbering about her five-

minute experience in the corridor of the 4th floor. Seriously! She was talking non-stop! “Now, where is Julia?” she questioned.

Everyone moved aside as they were covering Julia. “Julia, dear, come on, show me that leg please,” she requested. “Where does it hurt?” questioned Mirabelle, trying to help.

“Over here” Julia said, as she pointed. She had sprained her ankle. Everyone could tell as she was lying down and her blue leg was rested on a pillow. “Why don’t we get her some ice and a painkiller?” suggested Principal Stasha.

“Nicky and I will get you some ice and medicine from the nurse” Nita said to Julia. They would go and get the things Julia required for her ankle while Mirabelle and Alira waited with Julia. They had their room intercom to tell the others if Julia needed a plaster or anything else.

“I hope I’m fine by this weekend, or the beginning of next week,” said Julia, worried. “I’m sure you’ll be fine,” assured Mirabelle. Julia was petrified. How would she be able to dance or do anything? She would have had to stay in bed for a week! She would have stay in bed for even longer if it took more time!

While they waited, the other three had almost reached the nurse. Nita and Alira persuaded the Principal to run without her heels. She was scared of losing them and so just before going, she sneaked back into their room and placed her shoes on the side of the door. In a few minutes they reached! Again, the Principal's hair was in different directions, so she went to the staff washroom and fixed it. When she was inside, Nita and Alira had got the medicine and were waiting for the Principal to come, so that they could go back with the gel ice pack.

"I'm back!" the Principal screamed. They thanked the nurse and headed to their dorm.

Thanks to all the love, support and help, Julia recovered sooner than you can say "You're going on a trip to Argentina and back". A few days passed by, and everyone was getting back to doing their usual routine. It was a bit different at first, but after few periods, everyone and everything was back to normal again.



# **End of the Year Competition**

Soon enough, there was an announcement made by the Principal. All students gathered down to the main hall. “Students, thank you so much for your attention,” said the Principal. After saying a few

words, she said, “Now, I shall handover to Miss Aria, my helping hand, to tell you’ll what this is about”.

Miss Aria thanked the Principal softly and cleared her throat. “So as everyone knows, Ma’am said something about why you guys are down here right?” she asked. “Yes.” Everyone replied. “Well, the teachers and I have been discussing for a while and we think that we should have a dance competition because the first term is almost over!” Miss Aria said, enthusiastically. Everyone’s mouth hung open! They didn’t even realise how fast time flew! Everyone was chattering about how the teachers must’ve tricked them or it could be a mistake! The year went by so fast!

Since there were only about 5 weeks left, everyone started the preparations immediately! There were banners, balloons, confetti and other party planning needs! Each group of students got a form, which informed them about how the competition works.

The form below requires the following information:

Name:

Age:

Name of Song:

Dance Form:

So, each student individually has to perform on a song your teachers give you. First, tell the respective teacher your dance form and your details. They will note it down and give it to the Principal. This is not your final dance. It is just an audition to see who can compete. The final rounds will be with the best group of dancers. There will be 3 groups, and out of that, one will be disqualified! The remaining two groups will compete with each other, and then the Principal and teachers will pick a winner!

For the audition dance: 2 weeks to practice the routine.



For the group dance: 2 weeks to practice the routine.

In the last week, the competition will be held! We hope to see some good improvement and hard work! The Principal will be coming to classes and seeing everyone's work! There will be no group classes for the next two weeks! We will have a bit more practice on the weekends. All teachers will have a schedule with them so they know whom to help individually. There will be no more than 25 students for each dance form. Since there are 8 periods of dance for an hour each, 8 students will come on Monday, the remaining 8 on Tuesday, the next 8 on Wednesday, and so on. There should be dedication and discipline throughout the time. In all, there are 200 students in the academy and no one should be late for any try outs, rehearsals or practices. I hope it is clear to everyone.

Regards,  
Feet of Dreams Team



# Practicing for Perfection

Everybody started practicing immediately. There was no time to waste. Many girls decided on what dance style they would do for the audition, even if they were alone. All six girls chose different dance

styles. Nicky chose hip-hop, Alira chose ballet, Nita chose flamenco, Julia chose jazz, Kelly chose aerial, and Mirabelle chose salsa. They each signed up for their choices and went their separate ways.

Once everyone had chosen their dance styles, and they started their classes, the loud speakers of every class announced, the people who chose that dance form, their names would be announced by each dance class studio and then to the main speaker!

As a surprise, Julia was with Zoey and Chloe in the audition room/jazz studio! She couldn't believe her eyes! "I must have missed their names in the announcement today." She thought, sighing. "Anyway, it's not like I'm dancing with them for the auditions at least," she said, softly. Julia went to practice with the others.

Two weeks passed by quickly and everyone was surprised how time flew. One early Saturday morning, there was an announcement made by the Principal, "Students, please come to the main hall as I am announcing the team results! Everyone gathered down and took a seat. The Principal started, "Good Morning students, as I said, I am going to be announcing the three qualifying teams!"

"Team 1 is Alicia, Zoey, Chloe, Arshia, Samantha and Samira! Team 2 is Nita, Alira, Mirabelle, Nicky, Julia and Kelly!" She went on till the third group was over. "Congratulations for making it up to this level! Remember, one of the teams will get disqualified" she added.

The Principal wished them good luck as they headed off. Everyone was thrilled to be in the teams they were in. Both, the bullies and the six girls were ready. The bullies made faces at the rest of the teams and headed off. The six girls were doing a group dance on hip hop, the third team on salsa and the bullies were doing ballet! They started practicing as soon as possible.

After a week, the dances were much better than when they started. All three groups were doing equally well, until one day, the other three girls in the bullies' group, cheated. They started copying everyone's moves, complaining about them to the staff and even switched the third teams costumes with wrinkly ones! The Principal disqualified those three out of the bullies' group immediately. The bullies were on their own. They were thinking of cheating until they found out the consequences.



## Competition Day

Finally, it was the competition day, and everyone was betting on who would win, and who would be disqualified. There was an award which was a golden dance trophy! The dancers started their first dance. The third team went first. Soon, after the

messy moves and ungraceful postures, they were the team that got disqualified. The judges only mentioned after the team's dance was over. They went back, sadly.

" You ready girls?" Nicky asked their group. "Always", Nita replied as they headed on stage. They had a mike with them, which they used just to say, "5,6,7,8!!!" They danced with such moves and beat that everyone was struck in awe. They had such attitude and good choice of music. They even started doing the beat box that happened in a part of the music. It was just so good! They couldn't thank Miss Aria enough when they heard the round of applause. Finally, it was the bullies' turn. Their dance was amazing too! They did splits, stretches, pirouettes and leaps! They chose a song that made you want to sleep, it was a nice slow number!

The judges couldn't pick a winner. They were going to reveal that, when Miss Evie declared it was a tie! The contestants couldn't believe it! Both the teams were so confused! A tie! They each practiced so hard and now they were tied with another team! Both the teams started talking behind each other's backs. "It's so unfair. We practiced more than they did!" both the teams said. After the chatter, the teachers revealed the trophy to both the teams.

Instead of appreciating everything, they all started snatching the trophy from each other.

"That's mine," someone said. "No that's mine" argued another. This went on for about at least 15 minutes, until the teachers stopped them. The Principal went over the rules and lectured them. That went on for 45 minutes before anyone could take it. The six girls just gave it to the bullies as they were fed up too. The bullies were so happy, that they actually turned over a new leaf and congratulated the other team. Both the teams finally learnt to share, and that's what they did.

They held the trophy together and smiled for the academic year group photo. After that, there was a humongous party! It was so much fun; they partied on till at least, 3:30 AM. That's right, it was THAT fun!

It had been a blast in the first term at the Feet of Dreams Academy! The students couldn't wait for their second term to begin!

Dance All Right!

**THE END.**