

Simple Illustration presents:

Center Stage Sydney



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Illustrated by Joshua Perlin



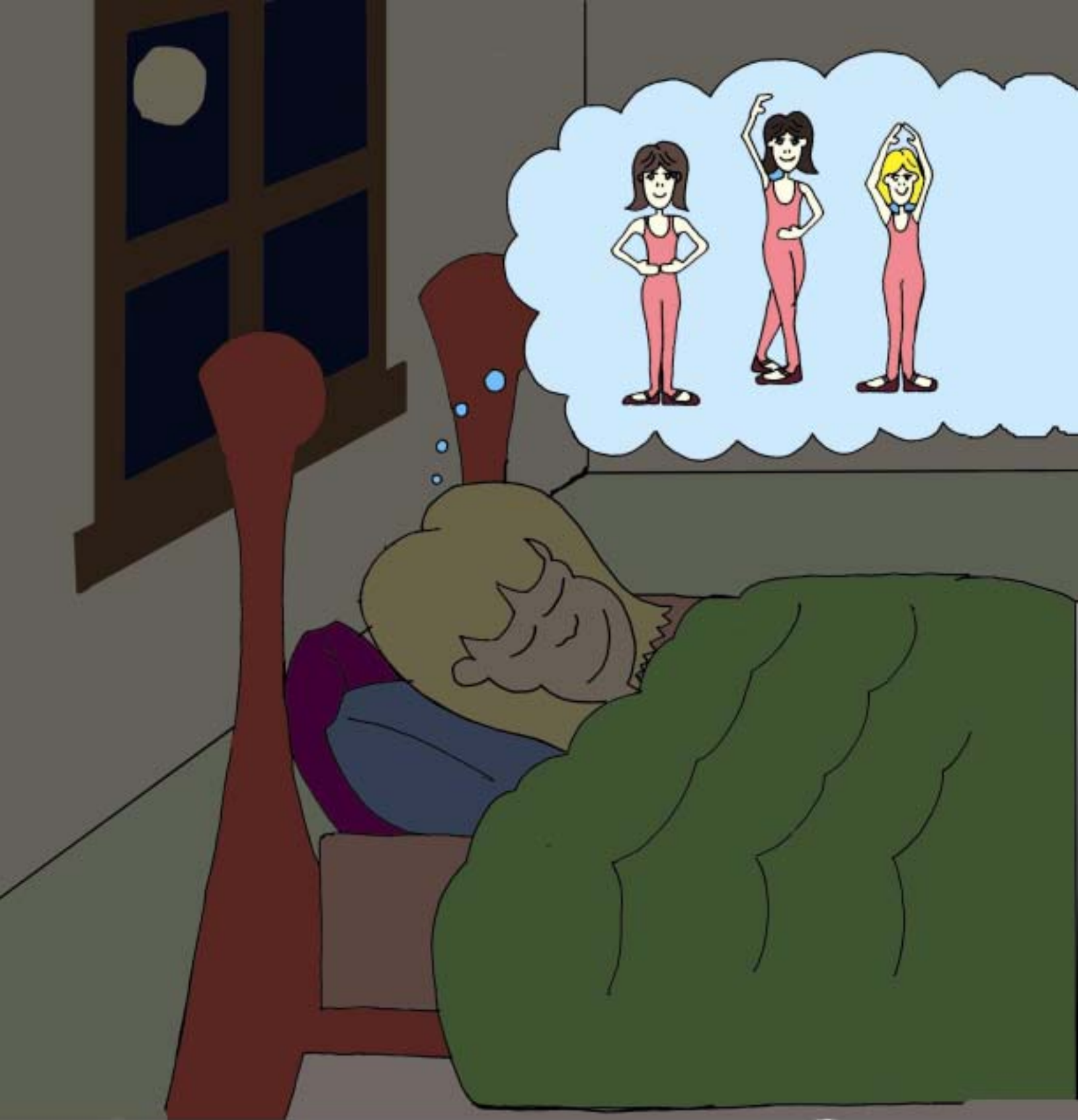
This is Sydney. She is 4 1/2 years old.



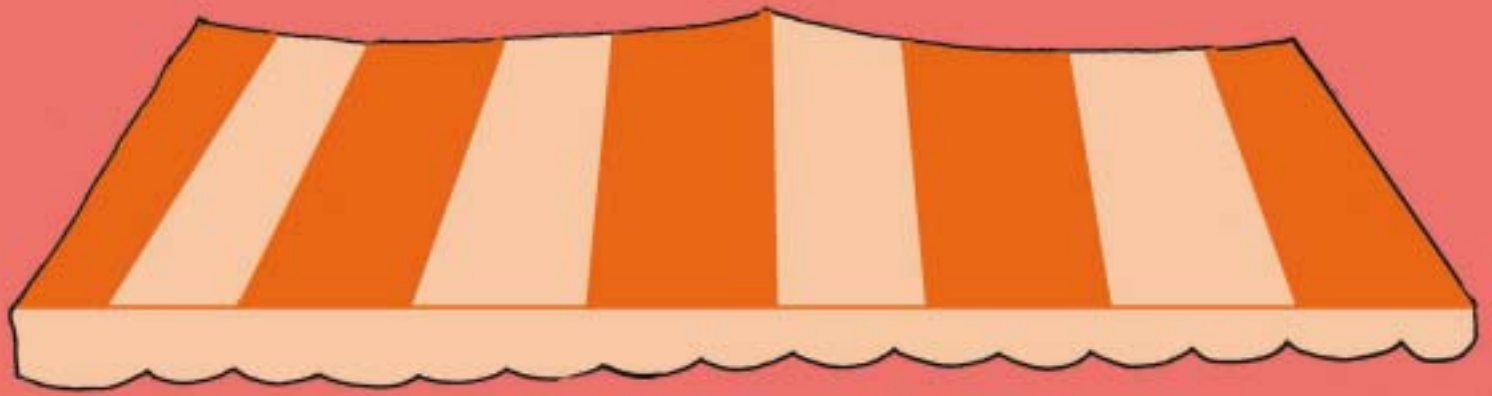
Sydney likes a lot of things.
These are just a few of them.



This is Sydney's brother, Nicholson. He wanted to be in this story so much that he stuck his whole face over this page. Don't let him fool you though. He is a really good brother. But as you can see, Sydney did not like his behavior.



But what does she like most of all? What does she love better than all the other things put together? Sydney loves ballet!



BALLET BONANZA SUPERSTORE



But to be a ballerina takes practice. If Sydney wants to practice, she is going to need the right outfit first. So on a Monday afternoon, Sydney, her mom, and her brother Nicholson took a trip to the Ballet Bonanza Superstore.



And what kind of shoes does a ballerina need?



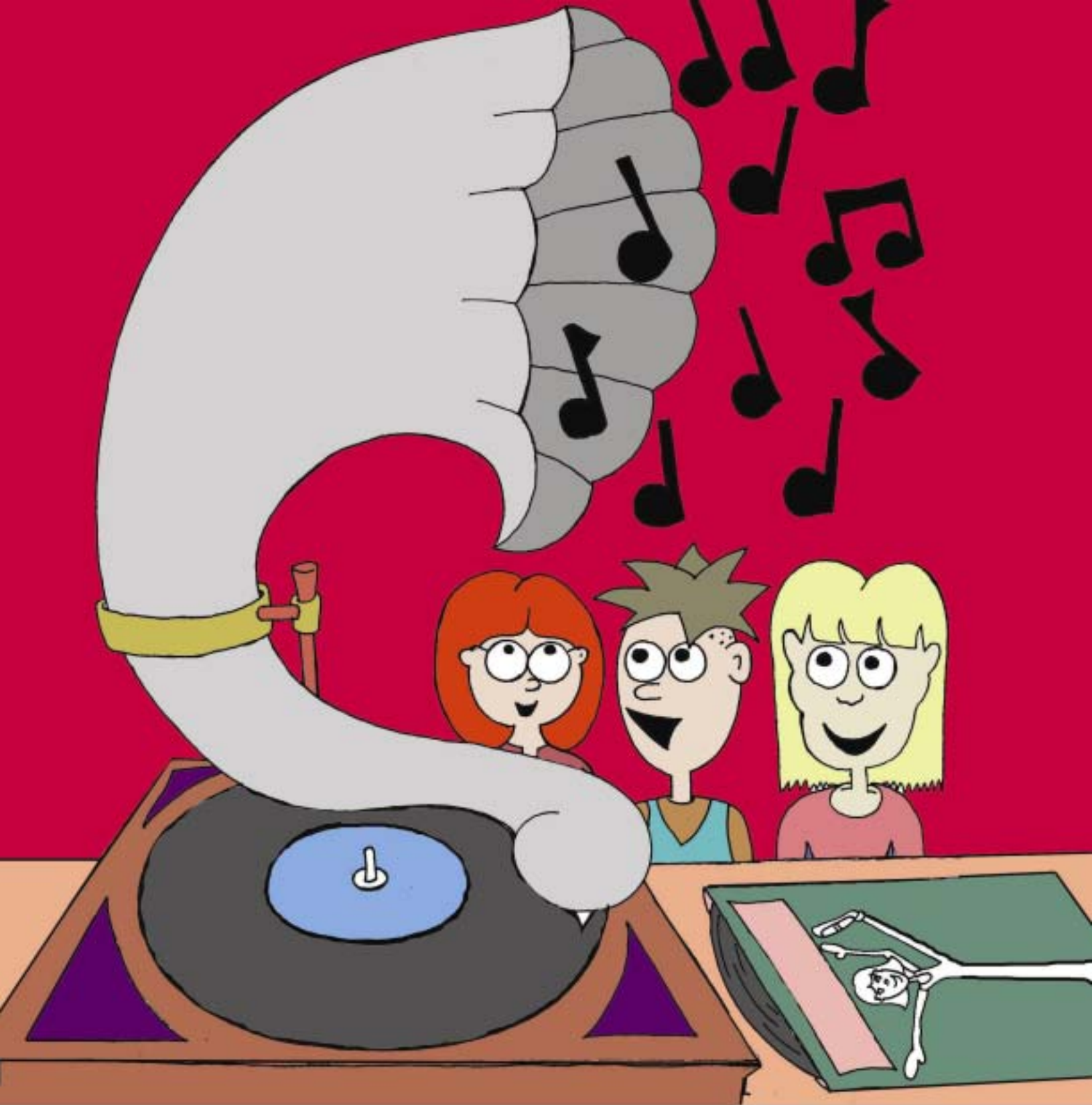
I don't think this is the right outfit at all.



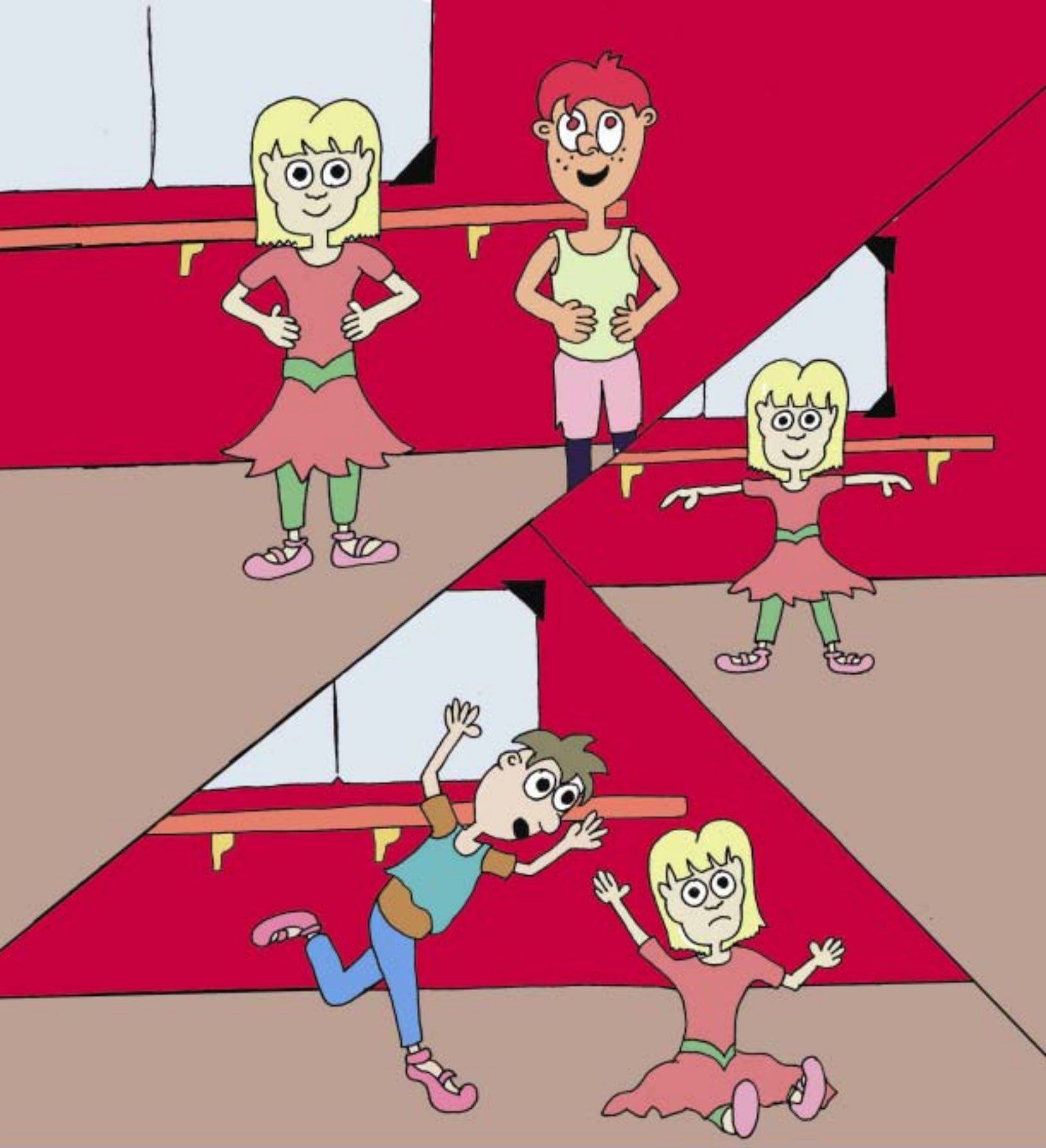
Finally! Perfect!



Now that she had the right outfit, Sydney was ready to take ballet class. Her mother brought her to a class taught by the famous Madam Smithely. She spoke in a proper English accent. Madam Smithely reminded the children that to be great dancers they, "Must always practice! As often as possible, practice!"



The first thing they needed was music. Madam Smithely had a very old music machine called a phonograph. When she put the needle down on the record, the room was filled with scratchy but beautiful music. Perfect for ballet.



The students all learned first position and then second position. Third position was hard, but they all gave it their best shot.



Sydney needed help with third position. Madam Smithely came over and told her to “relax” and to “bend your feet outwards”. She was very helpful. After three tries, Sydney got it perfect.



With all of her practice, Sydney became better and better. After a few years she became so good that she was asked to dance in ballets all over the world!



On the nights of her show the crowds loved her. They were so impressed by her performance that they would give her a standing ovation. Sydney's heart would leap with happiness.



As she caught the roses in her hands, her mind drifted back to the first class she ever took. She thought about all the practice and how it had allowed her to never give up on her dreams of dance...

THE END