

You Can't Escape the Beat!

by Isaac Seder

Part 1

The rain beat a steady patter on the sidewalk outside. Inside, Hakim, Nate, and Carla slumped lazily in Carla's living room. The repetitive pattern of the storm hypnotized the three friends.

"That pounding in my brain makes me feel insane," said Nate.

"I know," agreed Hakim, "You just can't escape the beat."

"That sounds like a song," remarked Carla. "It could be about music and dancing instead of about rain and laziness."

"That's not a bad idea," said Nate. "Let's write a song. There's nothing else to do."

As the rain kept pounding away on the street outside, the friends threw around ideas for their song. By the time the showers stopped, they had finished the lyrics to a song called "You Can't Escape the Beat!"

"My uncle works for a music company producer," said Hakim. "He will know how to turn our words into a monster platinum single."

Part 2

The three songwriters were thrilled when Hakim's uncle agreed to listen to it. They had dreams of their song skyrocketing to the top of the charts.

Part 3

About three weeks later, Hakim brought a letter from the music company to school. They waited until lunch to read it. The gentle but definite rejection letter smashed their dreams of a smash hit.

"I still think it's a good song," Carla said.

Mr. Juarez, their English teacher, overheard Carla's comment and asked her what song she was talking about. She showed him their rejected lyrics.

Part 4

"This is a terrific poem," he said, admiring its rhymes and rhythm. "You should enter it in the citywide student poetry contest."

Part 5

When "You Can't Escape the Beat!" won second prize, the three friends were invited to read their poem for a public radio broadcast. On the way to the recording studio, the friends laughed about how their lazy thoughts from a rainy day had turned into a gig that would soon be heard all over the city.

"I guess it's true," said Nate. "You can't escape the beat!"

Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 387

SAM Keywords: Predictions

Use with page 318.



Make Predictions

When you **make predictions**, you make a logical guess about what might happen next in a story. You should base your predictions on story events and your own experience. Then keep reading to see if your predictions are correct.

Use this chart to make predictions as you read.

Passage: _____

Story Clues	What I Know	Prediction	Was I Right?

Use with page 318.

