



# Follow Your Dream

## Part 1

**Teacher Reads** Everyone has hopes and dreams. Sometimes family members have different dreams for each other. That conflict occurs between a father and his daughter in this story.

Dad got out the family photograph album...again. He sat  
10 down by Toya in the living room. Toya did her best not to  
23 squirm in her seat. How many times had she seen the old  
35 school photographs of Dad in his purple and white band  
45 outfit, marching with the band? Too many times, in Toya's  
55 mind. Dad was in the band a very long time ago. Then Toya  
68 looked down at her purple and white school T-shirt. Same  
79 school, different times. But the marching band was still there.  
89 And Dad had been trying to talk Toya into joining the band.  
101 Toya did not want to let Dad down. She did play the  
113 trumpet so she *could* join the marching band. She just was  
124 not sure it was what she wanted to do.

## Part 2

**Teacher Reads** Toya has a choice to make. Keep reading to see how Toya feels and what she does about joining the band.

133 Toya's phone buzzed. It was her **friend** Yasmin.  
141 "Toya, dates are set for wrestling team tryouts. We will  
151 go together, right? You did tell your dad you are trying  
162 out for wrestling. Right?"  
166 Toya groaned. "I did not tell Dad about wanting to  
176 join the wrestling team. His dream is for me to play in the  
189 marching band. So I'm planning to join the band."  
198 There was a hush on the phone. Then Yasmin said, "But  
209 Toya, your dream is to make the wrestling team."  
218 Toya mumbled, "It's complicated. I have to go now." Then  
228 Toya ended the call.



## Part 2 continued

232 On the first day of marching band drills, Toya went to  
243 the sports park at school with her trumpet. She played and  
254 marched. This was not as thrilling as wrestling. With each  
264 song, there was an exact pattern of steps to follow. She had to  
277 know the order of the steps, but she did not have to choose  
290 which ones to use. It was not like wrestling, where you had to  
303 use quick thinking and skillful planning.

309 After the drills, Toya marched up to the band leader.  
319 “Thanks, but I will not be joining the marching band,” Toya  
330 told him. Then Toya rushed home.

## Part 3

**Teacher Reads** Toya isn’t sure how Dad will react to her decision about the marching band. His response is important to her.

336 Now Toya had to tell Dad the news. “How was your first  
348 day in marching band?” Dad asked with a big smile.

358 “Dad, it was fun, but...” Toya slowed down.

366 “But what?” asked Dad.

370 Toya said, “I know you dreamed about me playing in the  
381 marching band. But marching band is completely wrong for  
390 me. It is not my dream.”

396 “That’s okay,” chuckled Dad. “I know you have a  
405 different dream.”

407 Toya could not hide her surprise. “How did you  
416 know, Dad?”

418 “Don’t you think I saw you looking at those wrestling  
428 contests on TV? And working on wrestling skills with  
437 Yasmin? Now go try out for the wrestling team. We need  
448 some wrestling photographs to add to the family album.”

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