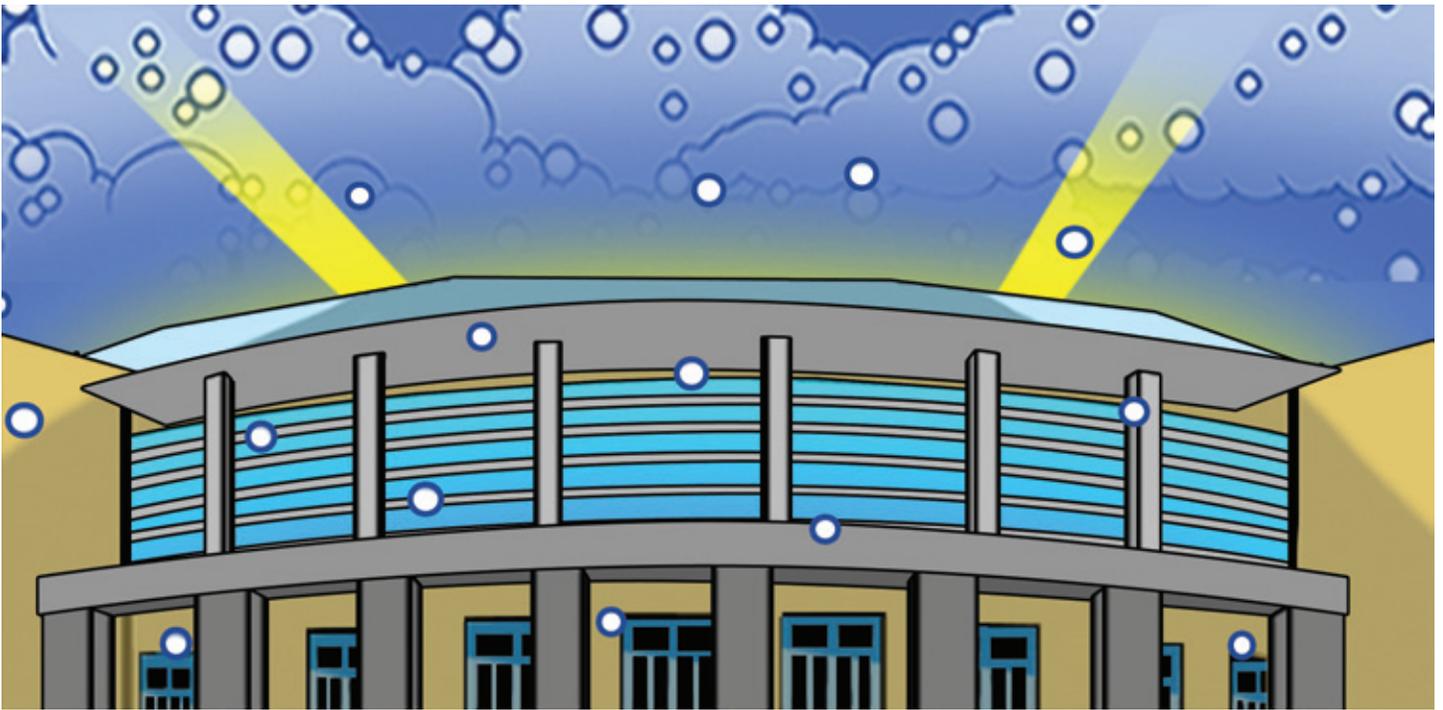




# Jade and Chip's Amazing Snow Dance





I always feel a little nervous before a live show. Not a bad kind of nervousness, it's more like excitement. Our band was thrilled to be playing at the Civic Auditorium in our hometown. A band called The Change Makers was performing before us.



Gentle snowflakes kissed our faces as we unloaded our gear. The kids in our town loved us; all tickets had sold out.



Suddenly my phone rang. I heard a panicked voice on the other end. "Brad, this is Bill. I am so sorry. Looks like we're not going to be able to make the show tonight. We are about 50 miles north of you. The roads have been shut down because of the snowstorm."



"Snowstorm? That is bad news," I told Bill, "It's barely snowing here. The weather report says the heavy snow should miss us. You and Penny and the rest of the band stay safe. We'll see you next time!"



My excitement turned to true jitters as I thought about how quickly we would need to work. "Let's get moving and get everything set up!" I told the band. I explained that The Change Makers were snowed in. We would be the only act performing.



During our quick rehearsal, I noticed that Jade's microphone didn't quite sound right. "That's too bad," I thought. Going on early gave us no time to get another one.



The kids took their seats. Eric got up to tell everyone that due to the weather, The Change Makers would not be performing. Before the crowd had time to get upset, he said, "Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, please welcome Brad and his Fun Phonics Friends!"



The curtain went up. Cheering and clapping filled the air. I started playing guitar. Susan joined in on the drums. Bob kicked in with his bass, while Joe began playing keyboards. Yeah, we were sounding good, and we knew it.



Festus was doing his cute little armadillo dance, as only armadillos can do.



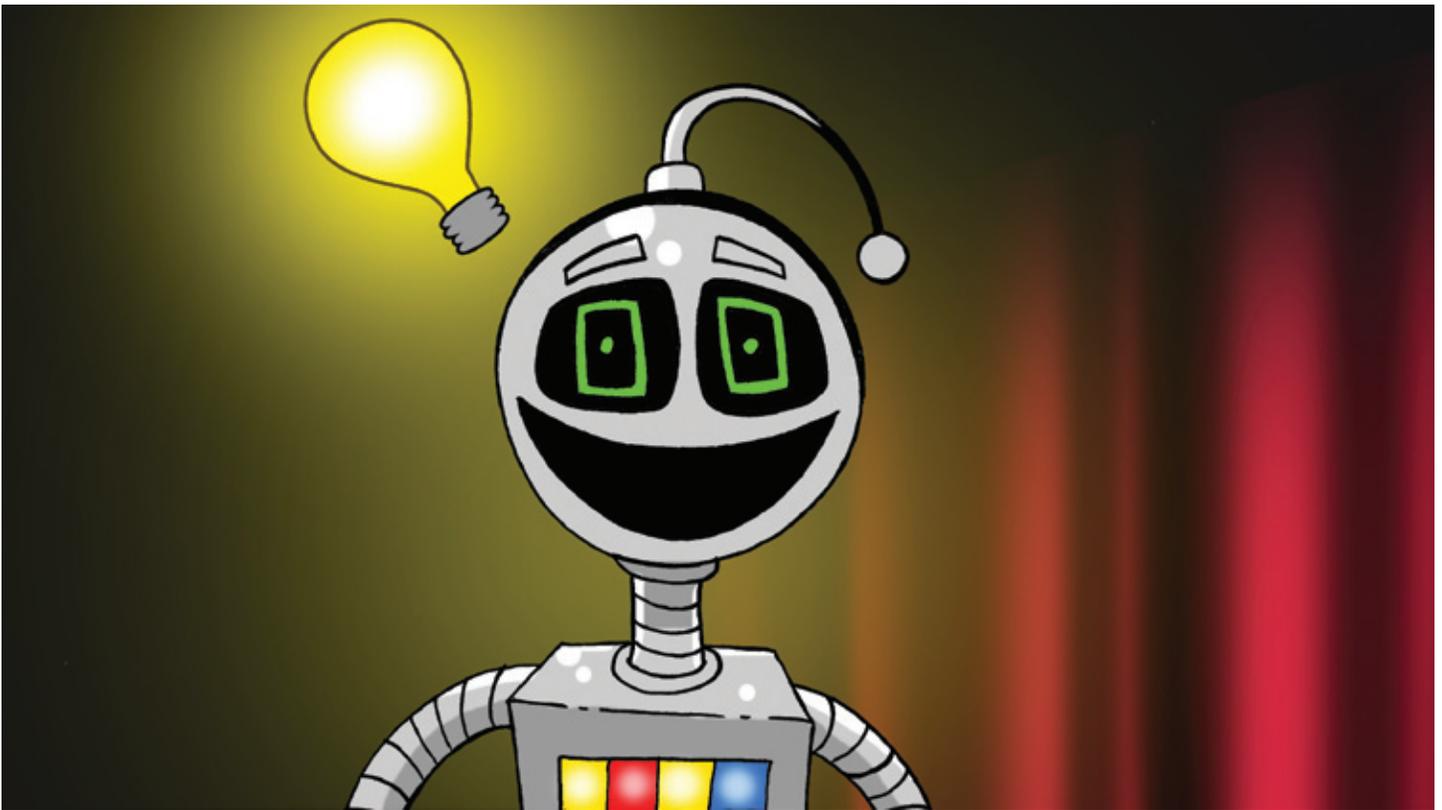
Jade started to sing. At least it looked like she was starting to sing. "Jade? Uh, Jade? Come on Jade, start singing!" What? No sound! Oh no, her microphone wasn't working at all! I glanced out at Chip who was running the mixing board. He just gave me a puzzled look.



So at this point, you may be wondering, “Why didn’t Eric offer Jade his microphone?” Actually, Eric wasn’t using a microphone that night. He has such a great big hound dog voice, that everyone could hear him without the need for amplification.



Unlike Eric, Jade performs much better with a mic. Jade almost looked like she was in tears. “What to do, what to do?” She was moving her mouth, but the audience could not hear her. My microphone wasn’t working either, so the problem might have been with the soundboard.



Luckily, Chip knew exactly what to do. He always keeps his Space Racer with him.



He flew over to Jade, picked her up, and carried her high into the air. "Don't worry, Jade," he whispered in her ear. "Pretend that this is part of the show." I caught on to what was happening and cued everyone to keep playing.



Jade held on tightly as Chip flew her all around, above the stage. They made beautiful circles in the air, so graceful and enchanting. The audience loved their sky dance and cheered loudly.



Just then, I saw the manager of the Civic Auditorium run over to Eric and tell him something. Eric climbed up on stage. "Thank you very much, Jade and Chip!" he boomed as they landed safely to the crowd's wild applause. "Ladies and gentlemen, you got to watch the first ever Snow Dance from Jade and Chip."



"Snow Dance? What does he mean by that?" I wondered.



"You see," he told the audience, "as Jade and Chip were dancing together above our heads, the snow outside became heavier and heavier. I think these two created a blizzard. For everyone's safety, we will stop the show early, but you will all be invited back next month for another show. Be sure to save your tickets!"



Now, whenever our band plays the Civic Auditorium, the audience always wants Jade and Chip to perform their special Snow Dance. They don't seem to be able to make it snow again, but everyone gets to enjoy our performances to the last song.