

A Big Decision

1 Alex was excited. It was the morning of her school's History Costume Party. She had spent weeks thinking about dressing up as a famous person from history. But who? She had finally chosen the brave pilot Amelia Earhart. Earhart had set flight records in the 1920s. Alex wanted to be a pilot too.

2 Alex was a little worried about her costume. Her class had not yet studied Earhart, so Alex had done her own research.

3 When Alex began to lay out her costume, her heart sank. She had the right pants, a shirt, and a long scarf. But she could not find a pair of goggles or a cap. She had to have them! Earhart wore a cap and goggles in all the pictures. Alex searched her closet and drawers for a cap with earflaps that looked like Earhart's and something she could use for goggles. No luck. She ran to her mom with the bad news.

4 Alex went back to her room to think. Her older sister Ellie walked in, holding her costume from last year's History Costume Party.

5 "I went as Clara Barton last year," Ellie said. "Do you want to use my costume instead?"

6 Clara Barton had been one of Alex's choices before she picked Earhart. Barton had been a nurse in the 1800s who started the American Red Cross. Alex had given a report on nursing for career day. Barton's work inspired her. Most importantly, the Barton costume wasn't missing any parts. The dark blue dress looked exactly right for the time. The white apron and nurse's cap were perfect. There was a Red Cross sign on both.

7 Wearing the Barton costume might be the better choice. With such a detailed costume and her knowledge of Barton, Alex would certainly impress her teacher.

8 While Alex thought, her mom entered the room. She was carrying a box filled with scraps of cloth and other craft supplies. She had a pair of swim goggles in one hand.

9 "I found some goggles," her mom said. "And we can make a cap with earflaps if you still want to be Earhart."

10 Alex thought about her choices. She knew a lot about Clara Barton. Also, that costume was ready to wear. However, sticking with Amelia Earhart meant that Alex's costume would be more personal and special.

11 There was only one hour left before school started.

12 Suddenly, Alex knew what to do.

Read “A Big Decision.”

Write a multi-paragraph opinion essay explaining whether Alex should change her costume to Clara Barton or keep working on her Amelia Earhart costume.

Use details from the passage to support your opinion essay.

Remember to —

- clearly state your opinion
- organize your writing
- develop your ideas in detail
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar

Use the space provided to write your opinion essay.