

The Chief in Me

Piper shouted, "Hurry Mama, the Ceremony is in five minutes for Chief Pahana!" Piper started to leap into the meeting area. Chief Pahana exclaimed, "As you all know, I will pick a new chief of Starfish Reef. It is 2020 and a new leader is chosen every 40 years. This person shall have lots of knowledge, lots of courage, and must be able to understand other people's opinions. I will have to think who will make a great Chief. You will all have your bold and brave chief in two days." The whole village started to clap when Piper started to cheer. I wonder who will be picked? Maybe it will be Connor, my older brother, Piper thought in her head because there has never been a woman leader before. Piper got stuck in the crowd of loud people leaving and returning to her home.

The next day Piper woke up happy and excited. She came down the stairs to see an unhappy expression on everyone's face. "What happened!" Piper exclaimed. "Chief Pahana is gone," Mama said. Piper felt let down and hurried into her room. Piper had so many questions. How did it happen? Who will be leader if there is no chief to decide? Piper ran down the stairs and into the village. People were looking sorrowful and others were speaking and moving frantically. "What will happen to our village?" Piper thought.

People were trying to think of ideas of what to do. All of the men in Starfish Reef gathered in the meeting room. Piper said to her Dad, "Can I come too?" Dad sighed, "No Piper, only men." Piper immediately thought that this was not fair. She stomped back to her family's

home and went to her room. Piper took out her little purple notebook and started to write. “Chief Pahana is gone, and my village does not know what to do. I want to help but because I am a girl and a child I am still not allowed to. This is not fair. I will come up with a great idea. Yes! I'm going to tell the town tomorrow. I wonder what people will think?” Piper finished writing and tried to maintain her excitement.

After school Piper went to her best friend. “Hazel, wait up!” Hazel asked, “What’s wrong?” “I have an idea for leader. People pick who should be leader and then people will vote to see who will lead Starfish Reef.” Hazel said, “I’m not sure if the community will like that but we can try. How will you tell them?” Piper whispered, “I will use the horn that the leader uses to get everyone to the meeting room. It is in the leader's thinking spot next to the leaders necklace which is open to everyone right now. I will do it tomorrow.” Hazel said excitedly, “Sounds like a plan.”

“DO DOO DOOO DOOOOO DOOOOOO DOOOOOOO!” The horn blasted. Everyone came running to town wondering who blew on the leader’s horn. They sat on the floor of the filled room. Hazel and Piper walked out on the stage. Piper stated, “As all of you know, we don't have a leader in this point in time. Hazel and I have come up with a solution. If any of the community thinks of one person that will make a good leader, they will put their name in this box. Later all of us will vote, and the villager that gets the most votes can become leader if they would like.” Hazel said, “Is this a good idea?” People sitting all called out “YES!”

The next day Piper and Hazel looked in the box. Hazel read the names out loud. There were names like, George, Jackson, Connor, and Peter. Piper asked, “What does that last slip say?” Hazel’s face got red. “It’s just a comment”, Hazel lied. It was Piper’s name. Hazel will just tell people that they can vote for Piper while she tells her to go outside. Hazel thought this was the perfect plan.

Hazel blew the horn. People wanted to know who they could vote for. They each had their own piece of paper. Hazel read the names. “Oh, Piper go check if anyone is outside.” Piper listened. When Piper went outside, Hazel said, “Piper’s name was also put in the box. You can vote for her too.”

Piper was back, and the votes were in. Hazel went through them very fast and announced, “Piper Summers is the new Chief. She has gotten the most votes!” Everyone cheered. Piper was so excited. She was chosen as the new leader and put on the necklace that shows the greatness in her. She felt so accomplished. The village thought she could do it because she had all the qualities that Chief Pahana had said at his last speech, and she put together this great idea. Starfish Reef had a great new leader.

