



An Old Suitcase



Chase stops at a used-books table and spots the perfect book — *101 Funny Facts from History*. He loves facts and he loves history! And who doesn't like to laugh?

"Hey, Ava," Chase says, "which president wore the biggest gloves? Give up? The one with the biggest hands!"

Ava groans and gets in line for funnel cake.

At the next few booths, Chase gets a stack of comic books, a bag of dice, and a Rubik's Cube. He runs out of money after buying a plastic dinosaur with moveable legs.

Ava buys a pair of oversized sunglasses, a picture frame, and a tie-dyed tutu (to match her sneakers).



“I still have one dollar left,” she says.

“Your bike basket won’t hold all of this stuff,” Chase says. His eyes land on a brown suitcase. It’s a little bigger than the briefcase his dad carries to work, but much, MUCH cooler.

“We could use that,” Ava says, pointing at the exact same suitcase.

They rush over to it.





The suitcase is even more interesting up close. The corners are banged up and the handle is worn. The stickers on the front are torn and faded, but Chase can still make out EGYPT, LONDON, ROME, and SOUTH DAKOTA.

“That one’s not supposed to be here,” the young woman selling the suitcases says. “The lock is jammed. There is no way to open it.”

But Ava says, “Can I try?”



“Sorry, it’s just not for sale.” The woman turns away to help another customer.

Ava sinks to her knees and touches her fingertips to the lock. She looks up at Chase. “Did you feel that?”

“Feel what?” Chase asks, kneeling beside her.

“Like a chill going through you?” she asks.
“I didn’t feel anything,” Chase says, not too worried. He’s used to Ava’s big imagination.



Ava touches the lock again. She presses harder this time. With a soft **WHOOSH** and a louder **CLICK**, the lock springs open!