



## Sing Softer, Maggie

Maggie loved to sing. She sang when she rode the bus. All the passengers would smile. But not Mrs. Ellis, who worked all night. She would sigh. Then Maggie's mother would say, "Sing softer, Maggie."

Maggie sang in the supermarket. All the shoppers would smile, except Ned the produce man. He would just roll his eyes. Then Maggie's mother would say, "Sing softer, Maggie."

Maggie sang in the library. All the readers would smile. But not Mr. Baldwin, the librarian. He would shush her. Then Maggie's mother would say, "Sing softer, Maggie."



One day, Mother brought Maggie to the nursing home. They were going to visit Great-Grandma. They walked into a big, bright room. It was filled with many people. Maggie looked for her great-grandma. When she saw her, Maggie skipped across the room. Then, she hugged her.



After Maggie's mother hugged Great-Grandma, Maggie asked, "May I sing her a song?" Maggie's mother nodded. Softly, very softly, Maggie sang a song.

Great-Grandma leaned forward. She cupped her hand behind her ear. She frowned and shook her head. Then, she tapped Maggie on the shoulder.

Maggie stopped singing. Great-Grandma murmured something, but Maggie couldn't hear her. Maggie leaned in closer. Great-Grandma whispered something in her ear.

Then Maggie stood tall. She took a deep breath and opened her mouth. Her song burst out. It flew and floated. It soared! When the last note landed, everyone clapped and cheered. Mother and Great-Grandma clapped the loudest. Maggie grinned and took a bow.

