

It was the final day of seventh grade and all the students were preparing for the end-of-the-year dance. Almost everyone was thrilled. The eighth graders had attended several dances that year, but this was the first one to include seventh graders. Jeremy Farmington, however, wasn't looking forward to the celebration. He had no idea how to dance and was petrified of embarrassing himself. He was also too timid to ask any girls to dance (even though he really liked Gabriella Lancaster) and was certain that no girls would be interested in asking him. Ultimately, though, he gave in to his buddies' peer pressure and ended up at the dance.

Jeremy spent the first half of the dance hanging out with his friends at the snack bar. He watched other kids dance, but still didn't think he could pull off their moves. Then, his friends decided to be courageous and ask girls to dance. None of them were turned down. Jeremy found himself alone, wishing he had refused to come. It didn't help that he had watched Gabriella dance with five guys who obviously were much braver than Jeremy.

Finally, the disc jockey announced he was about to play the final song of the evening. He instructed the audience to find someone really special for the final dance. Jeremy felt totally self-conscious; he could hardly believe how humiliating it was to be standing around awkwardly by himself while everyone else was on the dance floor. Suddenly, he felt a gentle tap on his shoulder. "I've been waiting to dance with you," Gabriella smiled. Jeremy felt a wild grin spread over his face as the girl of his dreams led him to the dance floor where he fell in love for the first time, in the process completely forgetting about how foolish he looked dancing!