**Skateboarding Is For Girls**
**By Aurora A. and Annie K.**

Rachel's alarm clock went off. She snoozed it,again. A couple of minutes later, her 5 year old twin brothers came into her room. "Mom said you have to get up!" they yelled. Rachel did not want to go to school. She wanted to work on her new skateboarding trick, the alley-oop. She was close to landing it. She begged her brothers to give her five more minutes. They did not. It is tough being 11 years old.

Rachel ate breakfast. She packed her lunch. Then, she ran to catch the school bus. She sat next to her best friend, Lily. They talked the whole ride to school. At school, Rachel was only thinking about grinding, sliding, and kickflipping on the halfpipe. It was hard to focus on anything. The bell finally rang. Rachel jumped out of her seat and headed towards the door. Lily caught up to her and said, "Hey, did you see those flyers?"

"What flyers?" Rachel asked.

"The ones for the skateboarding competition!" Lily answered.

"WHAT?! YESSS!!!" Rachel was so pumped.

"It's for boys, though." Lily pointed to the flyers taped to the wall. The flyers said, "BOYS SKATEBOARDING COMPETITION this weekend!"

"Well, it doesn't say NO GIRLS ALLOWED. It just says BOYS. Not boys ONLY. I am going to do it!" Rachel checked to make sure no one was looking. She grabbed a flyer. She folded it up and put it in her pocket. She had two days until the competition. Lily smiled. She knew Rachel would go for it.

At home, Rachel practiced and practiced and practiced. She worked hard on her tricks. She was ready! Lily cheered her on. She also had a plan. "Do you think they are just going to let you in there? I have an idea." Lily was such a good friend.

It was the morning of the competition. Lily helped Rachel get her hair in a bun and tucked it into her helmet. She also brought Rachel some black clothes. Lily thought Rachel's normal hot pink look would blow her cover. Rachel looked great! She looked like a boy, sort of. Her shoes were still hot pink, but maybe some boys were into that.

At the competition, Rachel signed in as "Ray". She felt nervous for hiding the fact that she was a girl. But she really wanted to skate and show off what she could do. Why wouldn't they allow girls anyway?

“Ray” was called to the halfpipe. She was up. Rachel took a deep breath. Rachel crushed her moves. She nailed the alley-oop. She was so excited! Lily was in the crowd cheering. Rachel was so happy.

The judges announced the winner. They called “Ray” to get her first place medal! Rachel went on stage. The judges asked her to take off her helmet so the medal could be put around her neck. Rachel was nervous. She unsnapped her strap and lifted her helmet. Her long, blonde hair fell out of the bun and past her shoulders. The crowd gasped! Rachel smiled. She went to the microphone and said, “Skateboarding is for girls, too!” The judges looked at each other. They nodded their heads in agreement. The judges put the ribbon around Rachel's neck. The crowd cheered!