Clementine is a 3rd grader who is always paying attention, just not to the things other people think she should. And that keeps getting her in trouble. She notices the small things, the details beneath the surface of it all. We come to love her for the attention she has for what the rest of us don't notice.

The story begins with a talent show. Clementine doesn't think she has any talents to share and looks for excuses not to participate. Everyone else has a talent, especially her friend Margaret who is talented in everything, including being perfect.

On the day of the talent show, the teacher who was going to direct the show is called away. The Principal steps in and decides to make Clementine her assistant director. Clementine's gift of noticing everything saves the day and she is applauded as the star of the show.