

Knight Game and The Dino Book

Level 0 – Lilac

BookLife
Readers

The logo for BookLife Readers features the words "BookLife" in a small, black, sans-serif font above the word "Readers" in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. A small purple heart is positioned to the left of the letter "e" in "Readers". Below the word "Readers" is a simple black line drawing of a smiling mouth.

An Introduction to BookLife Readers...

Our Readers have been specifically created in line with the London Institute of Education's approach to book banding and are phonetically decodable and ordered to support each phase of the Letters and Sounds document.

Each book has been created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books with children, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

BOOK BAND GRADED using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

PHONETICALLY DECODABLE supporting each phase of Letters and Sounds.

EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS to offer reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

AUTHOR INSIGHT: **GEMMA MCMULLEN**

Gemma McMullen is one of BookLife Publishing's most multi-faceted and talented individuals. Born in Newport, Gwent, she studied at the University of Northampton, where she graduated with a BA (Hons) in English and Drama. She then attended the University of Wales where she obtained her PGCE Primary qualification, and has been teaching ever since. Her experience as a teacher enables her to find exactly what makes children focus and learn, and allows her to write books that amuse and fascinate their readers.

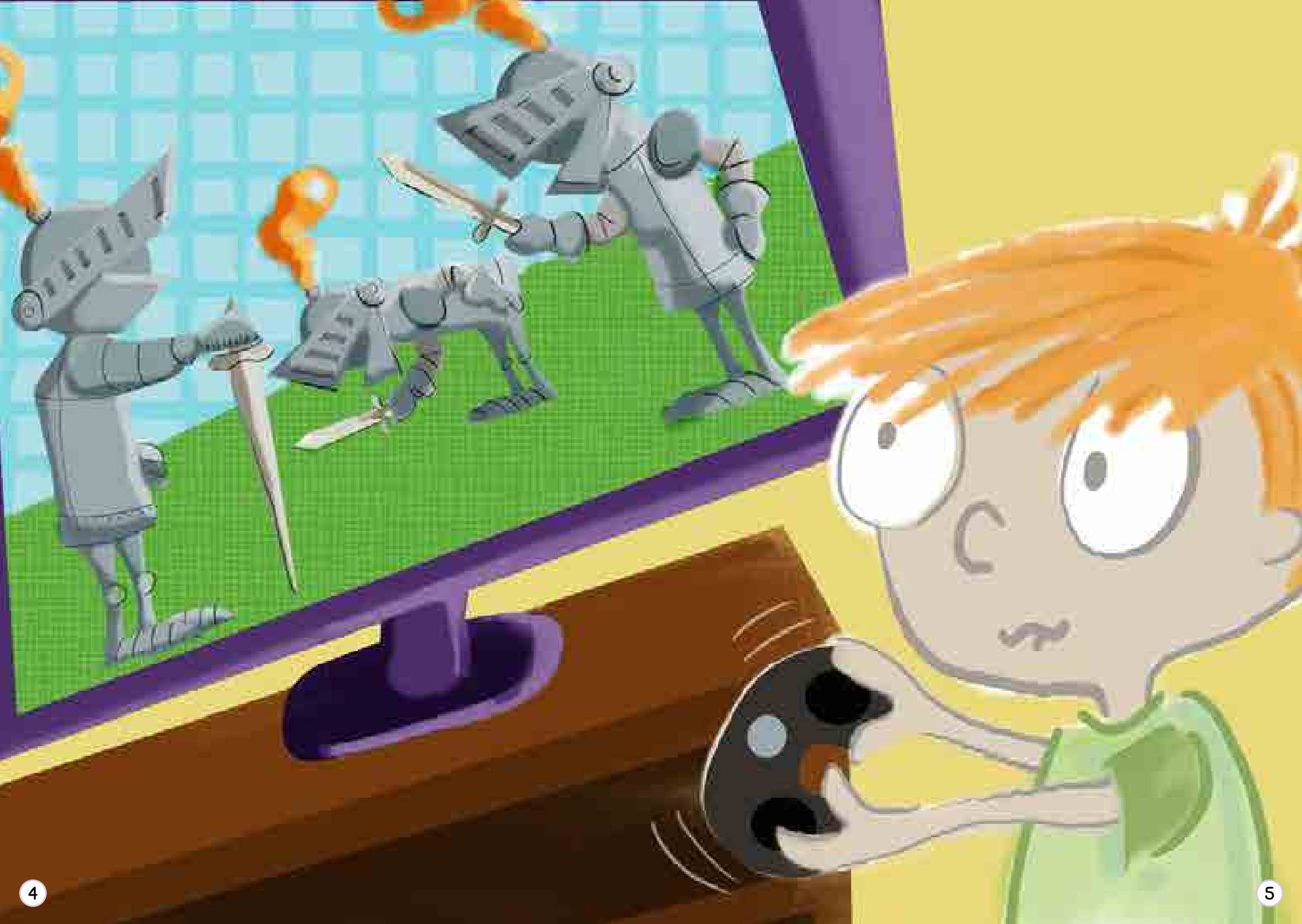
This book focuses on inspiring imagination and interest. This is a lilac level 0 book band.

Knight Game



Story by
Gemma McMullen

Illustrated by
Jan Dolby















Tick Tock! and I Can Spot It



Level 1 – Pink

BookLife
Readers

Helpful Hints for Reading at Home

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HERE IS A LIST OF NEW GRAPHEMES FOR THIS PHASE OF LEARNING. AN EXAMPLE OF THE PRONUNCIATION CAN BE FOUND IN BRACKETS.

Phase 2			
s (sat)	a (cat)	t (tap)	p (tap)
i (pin)	n (net)	m (man)	d (dog)
g (go)	o (sock)	c (cat)	k (kin)
ck (sack)	e (elf)	u (up)	r (rabbit)
h (hut)	b (ball)	f (fish)	ff (off)
l (lip)	ll (ball)	ss (hiss)	

HERE ARE SOME WORDS WHICH YOUR CHILD MAY FIND TRICKY.

Phase 2 Tricky Words			
the	to	l	no
go	into		

HERE ARE SOME WORDS THAT MIGHT NOT YET BE FULLY DECODABLE.

Challenge Words			
sunset			

TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

- Allow children time to break down unfamiliar words into units of sound and then encourage children to string these sounds together to create the word.
- Encourage your child to point out any focus phonics when they are used.
- Read through the book more than once to grow confidence.
- Ask simple questions about the text to assess understanding.
- Encourage children to use illustrations as prompts.

Tick Tock! and I Can Spot It

Written by
Gemma McMullen
& Rod Barkman

Illustrated by
Jasmine Pointer

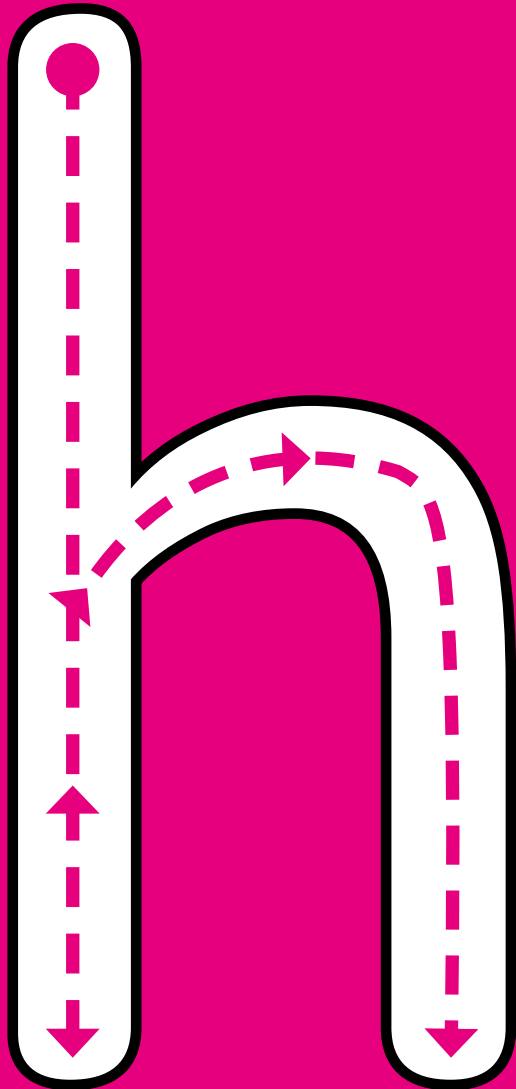


PHASE 2

1b

This book is a 'b' level and is a pink level 1 book band.

Can you say this sound and draw it with your finger?



Tick Tock!



Written by
Gemma McMullen

Illustrated by
Jasmine Pointer

Rick is a duck.

See? It can tick tock.



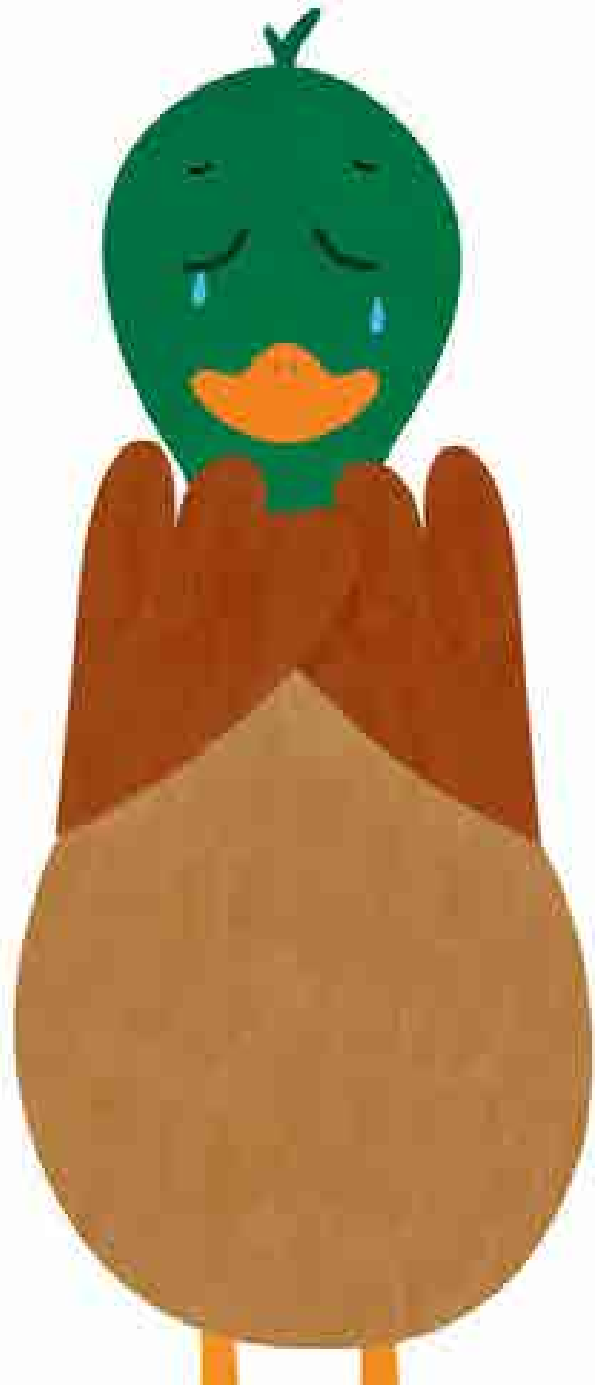
Tick, tock! Tick, tock!



No! A rock is on it!



Bad luck, Rick!



Pick up the rock.



No tick tock!

Put it in the bag.



Rat picks the lock.

Put the tick tock back in.



Tick, tock! Tick, tock!



Rat sits on Rick.



Ella and the Imp and Dad Has a Nap



Level 2 – Red

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g (go)	o (sock)	c (cat)	k (kin)
ck (sack)	e (elf)	u (up)	r (rabbit)
h (hut)	b (ball)	f (fish)	ff (off)
l (lip)	ll (ball)	ss (hiss)	
ure (sure)	er (corner)		

Phase 3 Set 6			
j (jam)	v (van)	w (win)	x (mix)

HERE ARE SOME WORDS WHICH YOUR CHILD MAY FIND TRICKY.

Phase 2 Tricky Words			
the	to	l	no
go	into		

Phase 3 Tricky Words			
he	you	she	they
we	all	me	are
be	my	was	her

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Ella and the Imp

and

Dad Has a Nap



Written by
Robin Twiddy

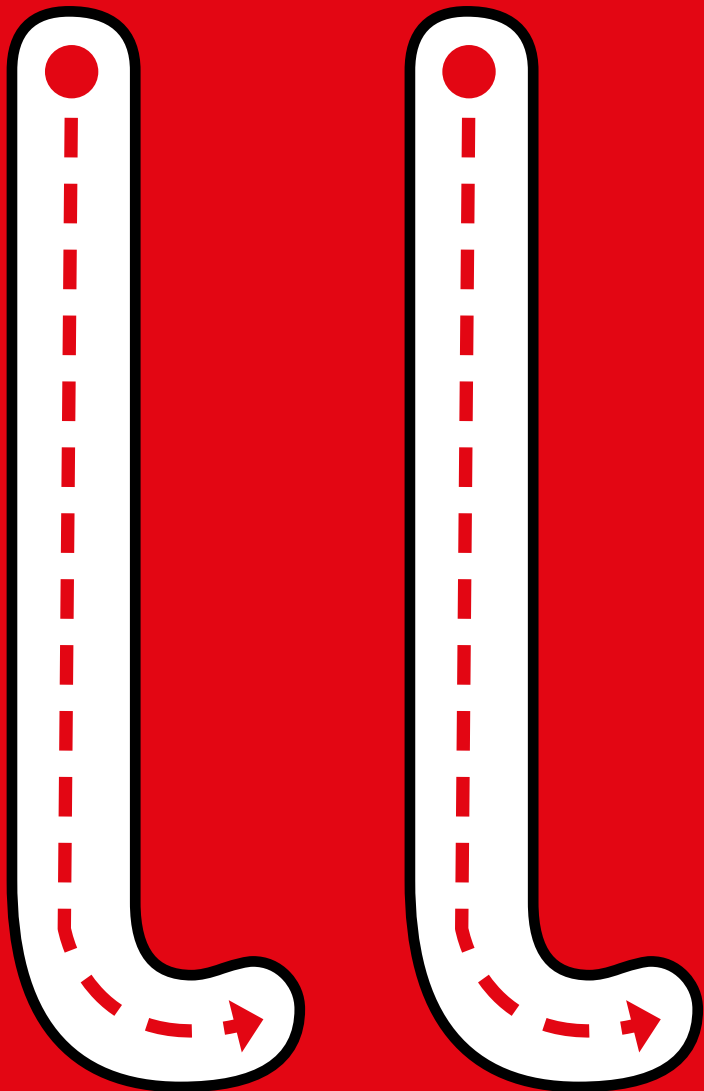
Illustrated by
Maia Batumashvili

PHASE 2
AND 3

2b

This book is a 'b' level and is a red level 2 book band.

Can you say this sound and
draw it with your finger?



Ella and the Imp

Illustrated by
Maia Batumashvili

Written by
Robin Twiddy

The imp has fun if it nips Mum.



The imp pulls the rug.



Mum has eggs. The imp pulls a leg.

The imp has fun if Mum is sad.



The imp puts a pin in. Mum jumps.



Mum is sad.



Ella is mad. She gets a mop.



The imp gets up to nip Mum's bum.



It is not Mum, it is a trap!



A bucket, a mop and a dress.



And Ella and a pot!



An imp in a pot.



Chuck is on a Quest and Patch is Fed Up



Level 3 – Yellow

BookLife
Readers

Chuck is on a Quest and Patch is Fed Up

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AUTHOR INSIGHT: **ROBIN TWIDDY**

Robin Twiddy is one of BookLife Publishing's most creative and prolific editorial talents, who imbues all his copy with a sense of adventure and energy. Robin's Cambridge-based first class honours degree in psychosocial studies offers a unique viewpoint on factual information and allows him to relay information in a manner that readers of any age are guaranteed to retain. He also has a certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Sector, and a post graduate certificate in Consumer Psychology. A father of two, Robin has written over 70 titles for BookLife and specialises in conceptual, role-playing narratives which promote interaction with the reader and inspire even the most reluctant of readers to fully engage with his books.

**PHONICS
FOCUS**

/ch/sh/qu/

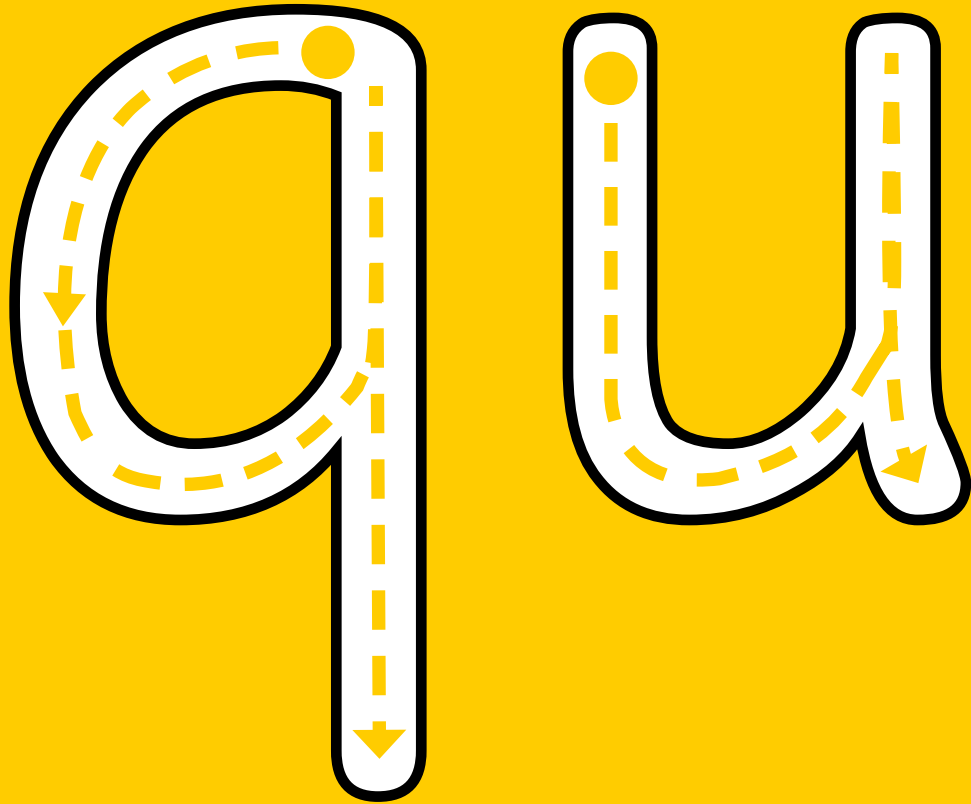
This book focuses on phonemes /ch/, /sh/ and /qu/
and is a yellow level 3 book band.



Written by
Robin Twiddy

Illustrated by
Amy Li

Can you draw the focus sound
with your finger?



Chuck is on a Quest

Written by
Robin Twiddy

Illustrated by
Amy Li



Chuck is on a quest, and he must travel far.



Past the pond of smells and shells.



And over the hill of chilling chimps.

Chuck can do it, he will not quit.



Up the cliff of big pads. Don't quit,
Chuck!



In the hall of naps, Chuck is quiet.



Chuck is on a quest, but he won't quit.



Chuck must travel in the land of the old chaps.



Chuck must squash the duck to get in.

To get to the dragon's den and the riches within.



Be quick, Chuck, get the gems,
jewels and the cash.



The quest is won, but the walk back
will not be quick!



Lorna Starts a New School



Level 4 – Blue

BookLife
Readers

Lorna Starts a New School

Written by
Emilie Dufresne

Illustrated by
Andrew Owens

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AUTHOR INSIGHT: EMILIE DUFRESNE

Born in Québec, Canada, Emilie Dufresne's academic achievements explain the knowledge and creativity that can be found in her books. At a young age, she received the award of Norfolk County Scholar, recognising her top grades in school. At the University of Kent, Emilie obtained a First Class Honours degree in English and American Literature, and was awarded a Masters in The Contemporary with Distinction. She has published over 60 books with BookLife Publishing, in subjects ranging from science to geography, art and sports, and even animals as superheroes! Children enjoy Emilie's books because of the detailed narrative and the engaging way she writes, which always entices children to want to learn more.

PHONICS
FOCUS

/ar/or/

This book focuses on phonemes /ar/ and /or/ and is a blue level 4 book band.



Lorna felt funny. This morning she was starting a new school.
“Lorna, it will be fun!” Mum said.



“But Mum, I’m different to the other kids,” Lorna said, pushing her food with her fork.



Mum felt torn. Lorna might find it hard, but it could be good to find things hard.



Lorna went to the garden and fussed her pets. She still felt sad.



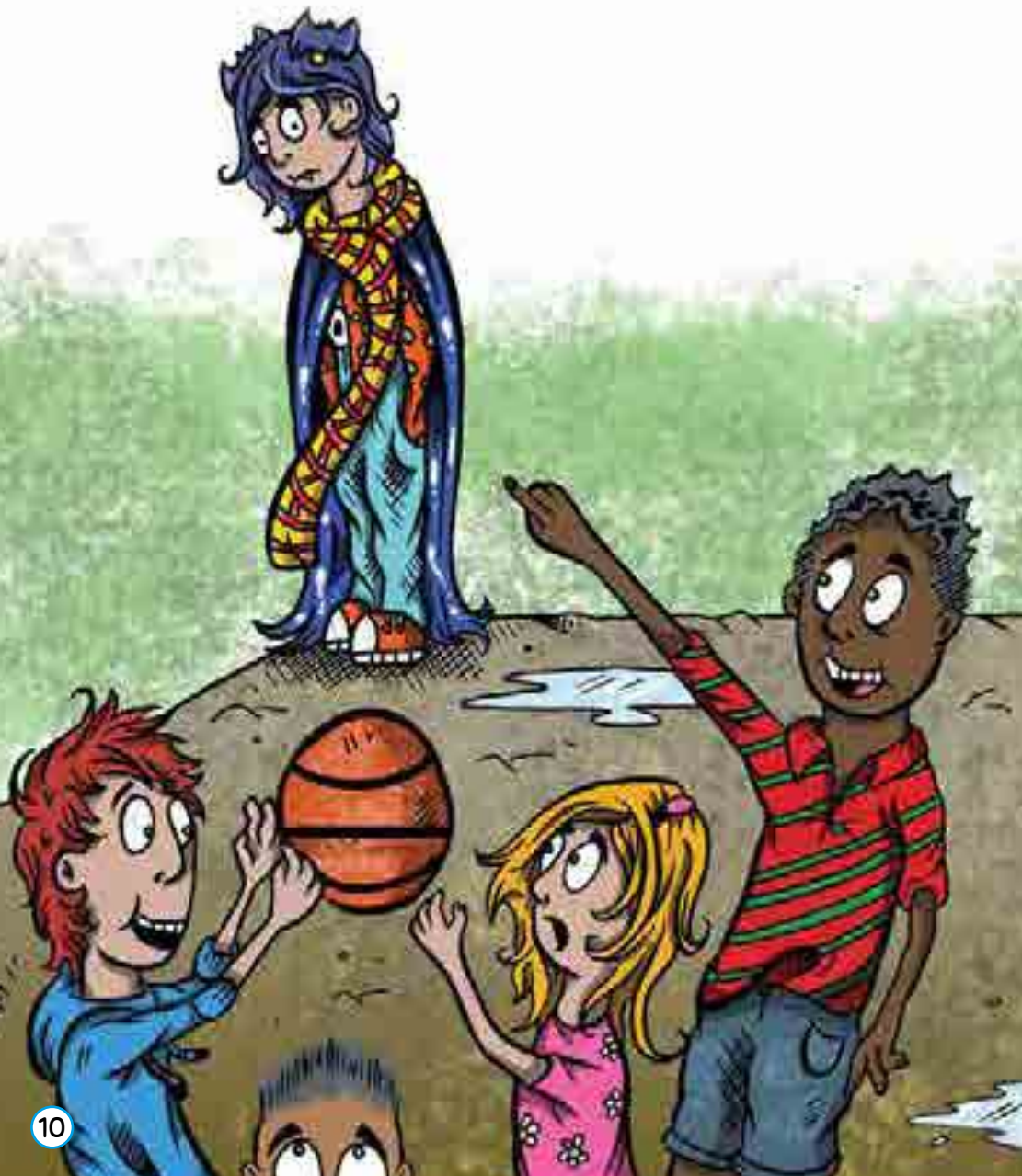
She looked back at the end of the garden path just as a storm started.



It was not very far to school. But the sky was dark and the storm did not stop.



At school, Lorna stood in the corner.
A child said, "A new girl, she must be
starting today."



Lorna's cheeks went bright scarlet. Today
was going to be very hard, indeed.



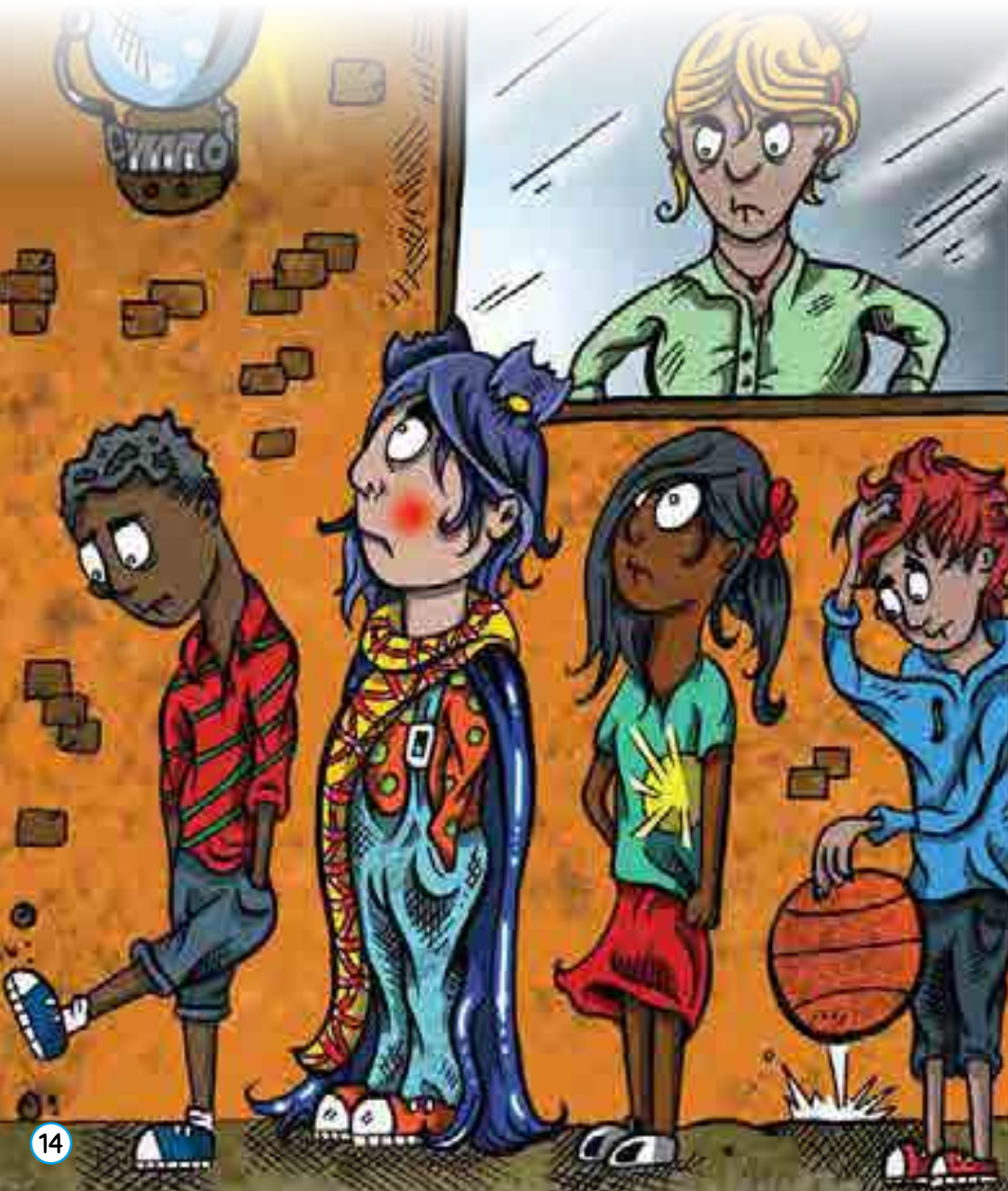
It wasn't cold, but Lorna kept her scarf and cloak on because they helped her feel better.



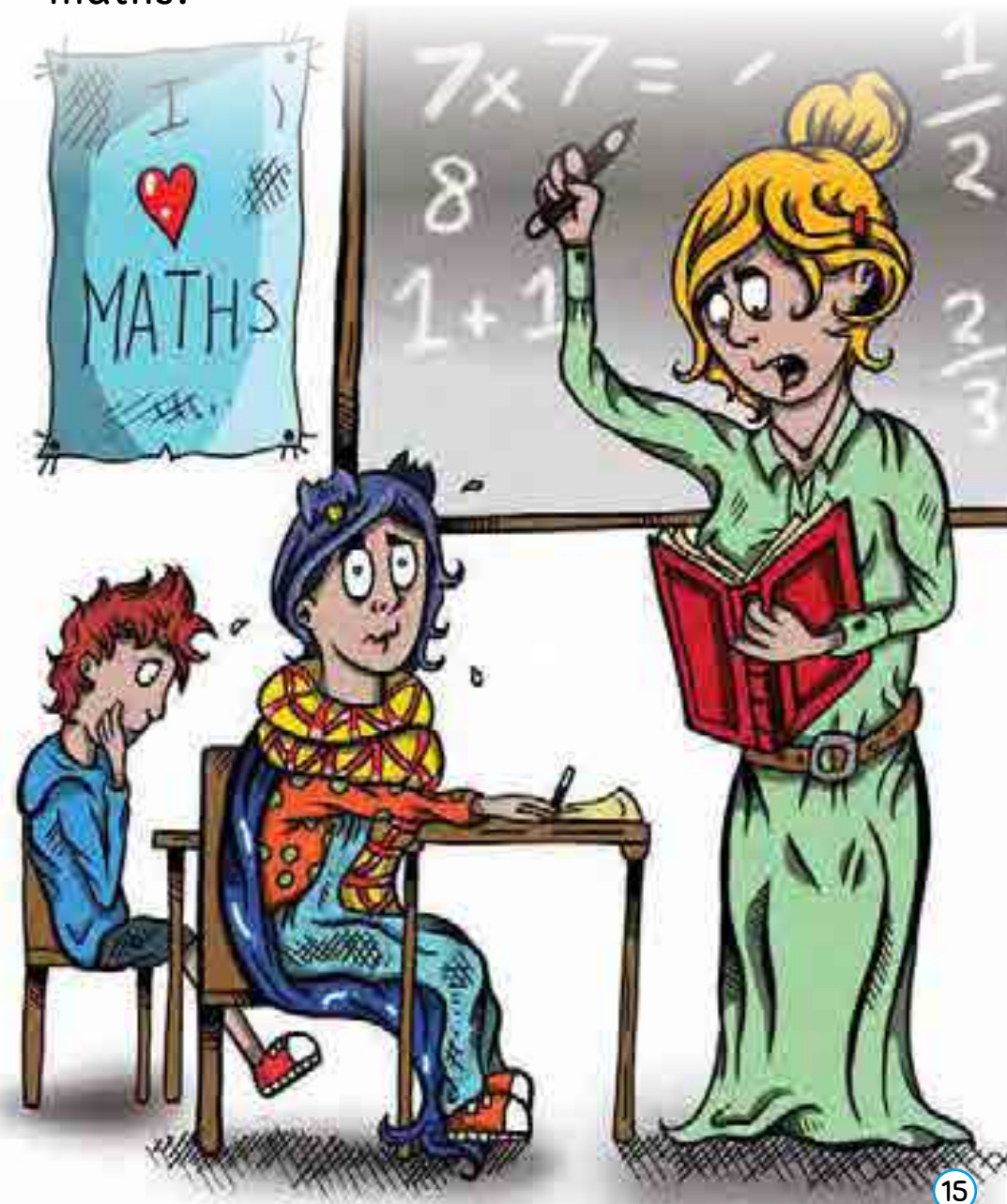
Lorna felt the children might be looking at her so she hid her sharp teeth.



The bell rang and the children stood in the yard and then went in to class.



In morning lesson, Miss Ford was very harsh and ordered the kids to do lots of maths.

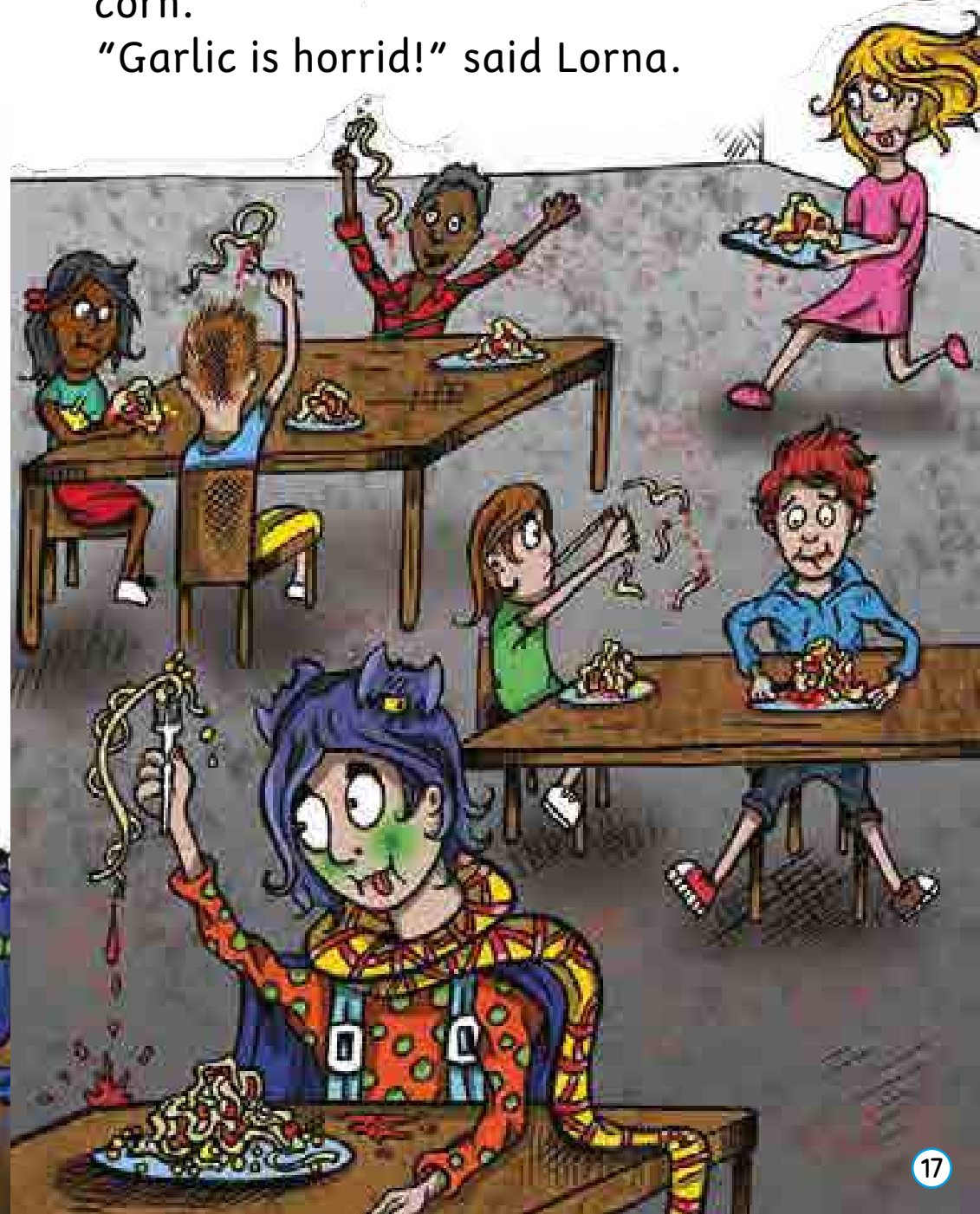


Then it was art with Mr Sharp. Lorna used bright card and lots of paint.



Lunch was tomato and garlic pasta with corn.

"Garlic is horrid!" said Lorna.



Lorna felt the children behind her looking. A boy said, "Let's sit with her. She looks sad."



Mark sat with Lorna. "It can be hard to start a new school," he said.



Lorna nodded, still feeling sad.
"Look at that!" said Mark.



"It's sport now! Do you want to be a part of it?" he asked Lorna.



"Yes, please," said Lorna, "I'm very good at sport!" Lorna was starting to feel better.



Lorna met the rest of the kids in the park. She couldn't wait to do sport.



"Look, it's Lorna!"
"Are you going to do sport with us?"
a girl asked.



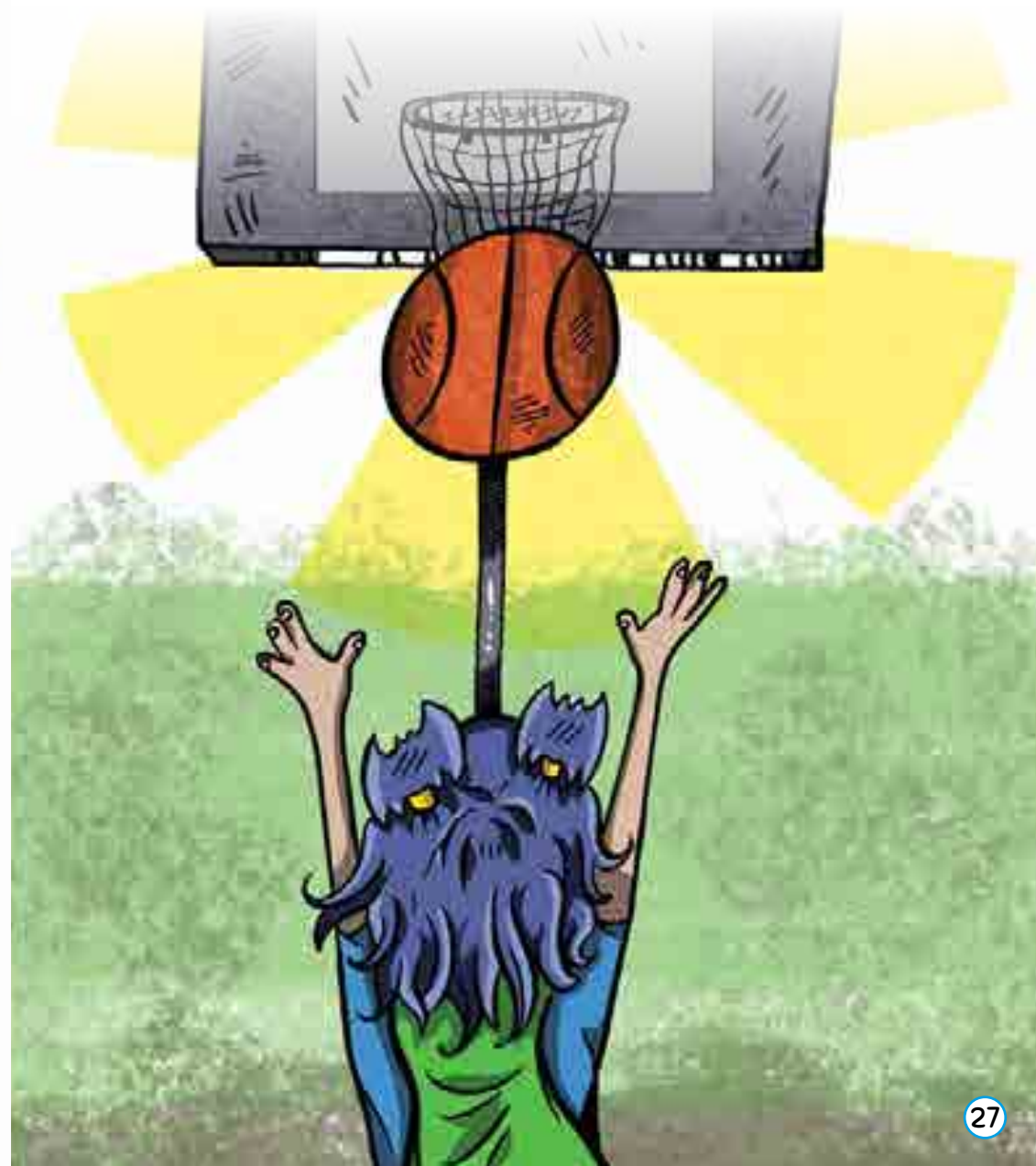
Mr Sharp sorted the kids. Lorna was with the ones in the green bibs.



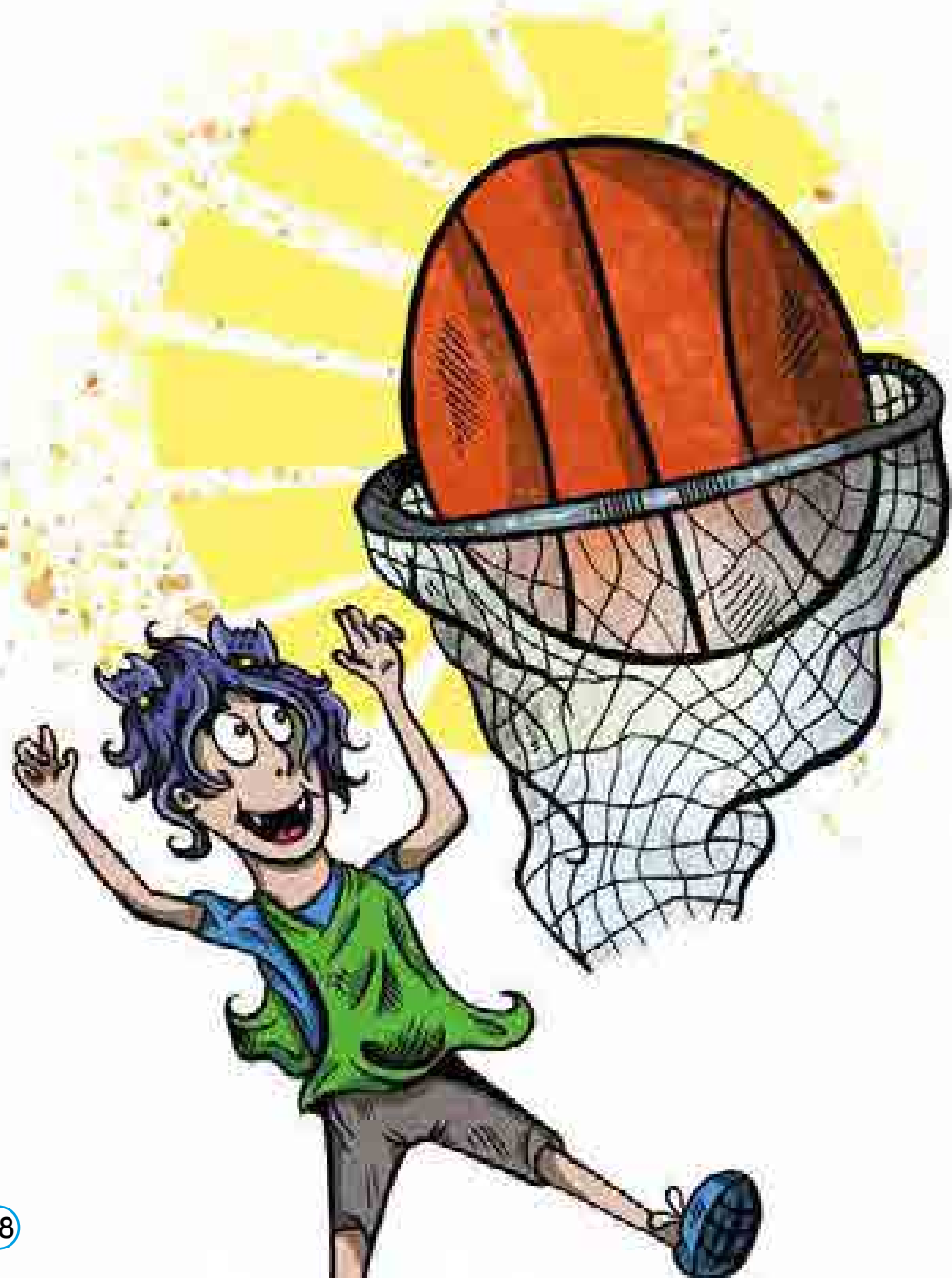
They began to play and straight away Lorna got the ball and stormed along.



Lorna got to the hoop and looked at the target. She lifted her arm and threw the ball.



The ball hit the hoop, wobbled and then... Went in! Lorna had scored a goal!



The greens cheered and started to chant. "Lorna! Lorna! Lorna!" Maybe school wasn't so hard after all.



Lorna Starts a New School

- Why was Lorna feeling funny?
- What did Miss Ford order the kids to do?
 - Run around
 - Lots of maths
 - Be quiet
- How do you think Lorna felt when she thought other children might be looking at her?
- Which colour bib did Lorna wear in her sports lesson?
- Do you think Mark did the right thing by sitting with Lorna? What would you have done to make Lorna feel better?

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j (jug)	v (van)	w (wet)	x (fox)
y (yellow)	z (zoo)	zz (buzz)	qu (quick)
ch (chip)	sh (shop)	th (thin/then)	ng (ring)
ai (rain)	ee (feet)	igh (night)	oa (boat)
oo (boot/look)	ar (farm)	or (for)	ur (hurt)
ow (cow)	oi (coin)	ear (dear)	air (fair)
ure (sure)	er (corner)		

HERE ARE SOME WORDS WHICH YOUR CHILD MAY FIND TRICKY.

Phase 3 Tricky Words			
he	you	she	they
we	all	me	are
be	my	was	her

BookLife
PUBLISHING

BookLife
Readers

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PHONICS FOCUS

/ar/or/

This book focuses on phonemes /ar/ and /or/ and is a blue level 4 book band.

Mummy's Tummy



Level 5 – Green

BookLife
Readers

Mummy's Tummy

Written by
William Anthony

Illustrated by
Maia Batumashvili

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AUTHOR INSIGHT: WILLIAM ANTHONY

Despite his young age, William Anthony's involvement with children's education is quite extensive. He has written over 60 titles with BookLife Publishing so far, across a wide range of subjects. William graduated from Cardiff University with a 1st Class BA (Hons) in Journalism, Media and Culture, creating an app and a TV series, among other things, during his time there.

William Anthony has also produced work for the Prince's Trust, a charity created by HRH The Prince of Wales, that helps young people with their professional future. He has created animated videos for a children's education company that works closely with the charity.

**PHONICS
FOCUS**

/y/ /oa/

This book focuses on phonemes /y/ and /oa/ and is a green level 5 book band.



Anna liked to think. She liked to think of this and that. She was thinking about Mummy's tummy.



Mummy had a baby in her tummy. The baby was going to be born soon.



Anna did not like the new baby. She did not want more children at home.



Anna went to find Mummy. Mummy was eating oats by the TV. Her tummy was very big.



"Mummy," said Anna, "will the baby be a boy?"

"Do you want it to be a boy?" asked Mummy.



"Yuck! I don't want a boy," said Anna.
Anna had a think. "Do you need this new baby?"



“Why are you asking that?” said Mummy.
“I want to send the baby back if we don’t
like it,” Anna moaned.



Anna was not happy. The baby was
coming soon. She went up to her room
to think some more.



Anna had a think about the baby. What if it was big? So big that it was bigger than her?



Anna did not like that. Anna was a big girl now and she did not want the baby to be bigger than she was.



What if the baby had loads of arms and legs? What if the baby was an octopus?



Anna did not like that at all. An octopus would have too many arms and too many legs.



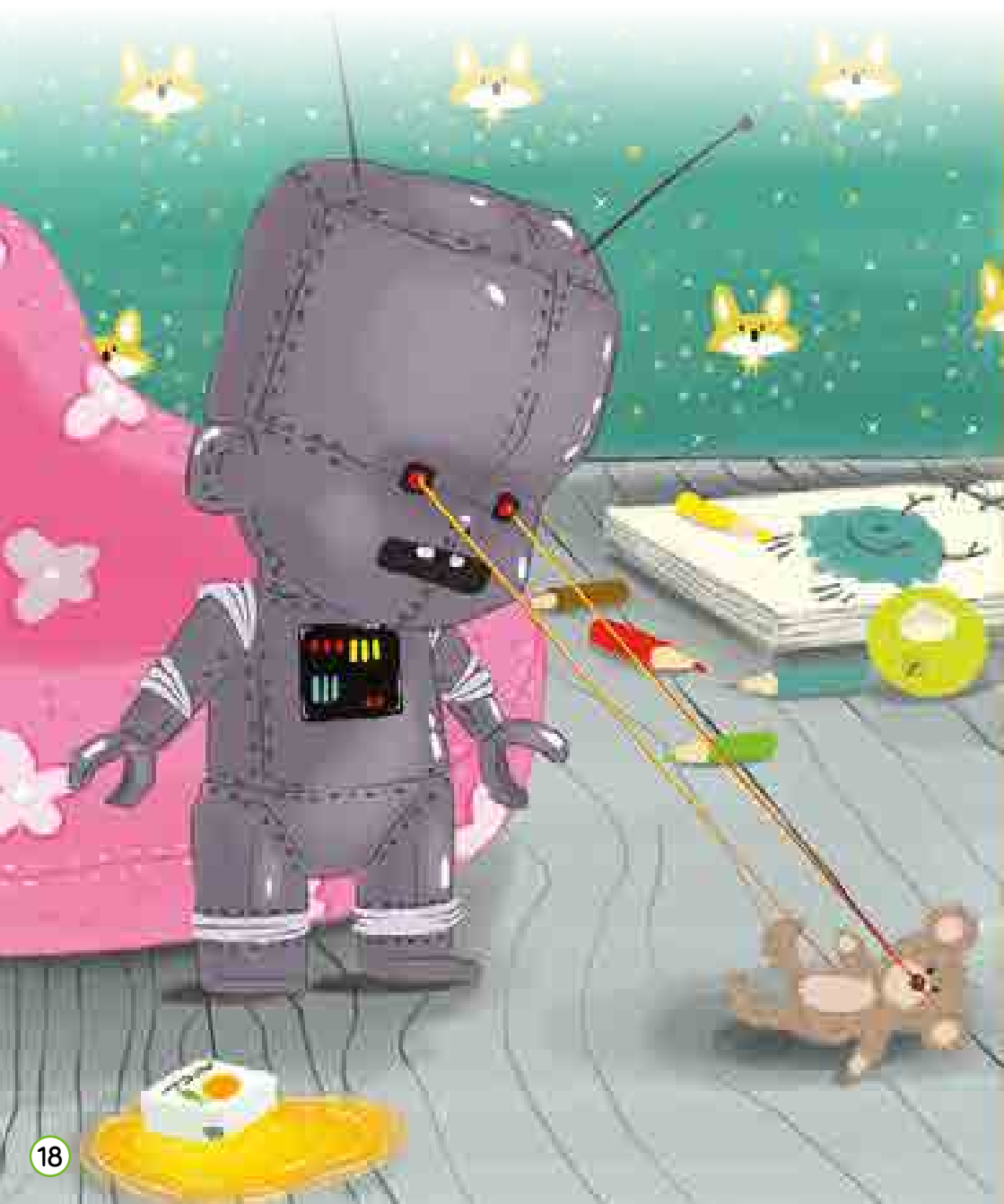
Anna had a think. She went to ask Rován at school. Rován was good at helping.



“Rován, do you think my Mummy’s new baby will be an octopus?” asked Anna.
“No,” said Rován.



Rovan was not much help this time.
Rovan said that the baby might be a robot.



Anna did not like that. What if the baby
said things like “beep zing borp thap”?



Anna asked Jack for help too. He said the baby might be a bit of toast or a sandwich.



Anna liked toast. She might like the new baby after all. She had to think some more.



Ella had a think for Anna. "What if the baby is a bush baby?" Ella asked.



Anna smiled a big smile. Anna liked bush babies a lot. She had one more quick think.



Anna went home on the coach. She ran to tell Mummy how much she would like the new bush baby.



Mummy had gone. Gran was sat at home. "Mummy has gone to have the baby," Gran said.



Gran took Anna to go and see the new baby.
“I think the baby will be a bush baby,”
said Anna.



“Do you?” asked Gran. “Shall we go
and see?”
Gran and Anna went to find Mummy.



Mummy was in bed, with the new baby in her arms. It was not toast, an octopus, or a bush baby.



"This is Jenna," said Mum.
Anna looked at the baby and said,
"Hello!"
The baby looked at Anna and said:



Mummy's Tummy

1. Why didn't Anna like the new baby in Mummy's tummy?
2. What was the first animal Anna worried the baby might be?
 - (a) A lion
 - (b) A bee
 - (c) An octopus
3. What is the name of the new baby?
4. What words does the new baby say?
Where in the story have you read those words before?
5. How do you think you would feel if you were Anna?
Would you have done anything differently to Anna?

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ow (cow)	oi (coin)	ear (dear)	air (fair)
ure (sure)	er (corner)		

HERE ARE SOME WORDS WHICH YOUR CHILD MAY FIND TRICKY.

Phase 4 Tricky Words			
said	were	have	there
like	little	so	one
do	when	some	out
come	what		

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PHONICS FOCUS

/y/oa/

This book focuses on phonemes /y/ and /oa/ and is a green level 5 book band.

Sammy the Silly Sausage



Level 6 – Orange

BookLife
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Sammy the Silly Sausage

Written by
Shalini Vallepur

Illustrated by
Simona Hodonova

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AUTHOR INSIGHT: SHALINI VALLEPUR

Passionate about books from a very young age, Shalini Vallepur received the award of Norfolk County Scholar for her outstanding grades. Later on she read English at the University of Leicester, where she stayed to complete her Modern Literature MA. Whilst at university, Shalini volunteered as a Storyteller to help children learn to read, which gave her experience and expertise in the way children pick up and retain information. She used her knowledge and her background and implemented them in the 32 books that she has written for BookLife Publishing. Shalini's writing easily takes us to different worlds, and the serenity and quality of her words are sure to captivate any child who picks up her books.

PHONICS FOCUS

/ai/ee/
/igh/

This book focuses on phonemes /ai/, /ee/ and /igh/
and is an orange level 6 book band.



Sammy was a very clumsy girl. She would drop something, or trip over her feet every day.



Everybody knew that Sammy was clumsy. Sammy got called a silly sausage by her friends, her teacher and her mum every day. But Sammy thought it was funny.



“Sammy, you are a silly sausage!” Mum said to Sammy one morning.
“I was trying to make you some yummy toast, Mum,” Sammy said.

The toast Sammy had made for Mum was black and burnt. Sammy wanted to make something nice for her mum. Things never went right.





One day, Sammy and her friends were playing at the park. Sammy wanted to climb a tree. She went up high to the treetop. "Sammy, what are you doing?" called Sammy's friend. "You might fall!"

There was a gust of wind and Sammy fell off the treetop. She landed right on her bottom.



On another day, Sammy and her friends were playing on the street. It started to rain but Sammy did not have her raincoat.



"Everybody, run!" her friends yelled.
"Wait for me!" Sammy said. Sammy started to run after her friends, but she tripped. She started to weep and her knee started to bleed.

Sammy went home. Her feet were wet, and she was cold and very sad. "What's the matter, sausage?" Mum asked.

"I don't want to be a silly sausage, Mum. I keep getting hurt," said Sammy.
"It's okay, Sammy," said Mum with a sigh.



That night, Mum tucked Sammy into bed. Mum hugged Sammy and pulled the sheets up to her chin. "Sleep tight, Sammy," Mum said.



"I keep getting hurt and I can't do anything right. I don't want to be a silly sausage anymore," thought Sammy.



Sammy was tucked up tight in bed. She began to drift off into a deep sleep.



When she opened her eyes, Sammy wanted to get out of bed, but instead she started to roll.





Sammy looked down and saw that she had turned into a sausage! And she wasn't in her bed anymore, she was in a frying pan! She was having a bad dream.



In a flash, Sammy was on the treetop at the park. "Why am I in the tree?" she wondered.

There was a bird in the nest that seemed to be hungry. It saw Sammy and started to move closer. "Go away! Ow!" Sammy fell off the branch.



Sammy was on the street again. She saw her friends running away from the rain. She went to run and jump after them, but she fell over and started to roll. Sammy rolled and rolled and rolled down the street.





Sammy didn't stop rolling down the street.
And in fact, Sammy didn't want to stop!



“Weee! This is fun, I want to keep rolling!” said Sammy. She was spinning, rolling, twirling and flipping all the way down the road.



Sammy woke up with a glint in her eye. She looked at her body – she was a person again.



“It wasn’t so bad being a silly sausage.
I had a lot of fun,” said Sammy.



The next morning, Mum came down to a
surprise. There was toast with lots of jam,
and a mug of coffee waiting for her.



"Sammy, did you make this toast and coffee for me?" asked Mum.

"Yes, I did. I tried my best to make it for you, Mum! I don't mind being a silly sausage, I just have to be a bit careful," said Sammy.



"Thank you, sausage!" said Mum. She gave Sammy a big hug.



Sammy the Silly Sausage

1. What did Sammy do to the toast she made for Mum?
2. How do you think Sammy felt about being clumsy?
3. What does Sammy turn into in her bad dream?
 - (a) A noodle
 - (b) A sausage
 - (c) A banana
4. What did Sammy make for Mum the next morning?
5. What do you think Sammy learned from her bad dream?
How do you think you would feel if you were Sammy?

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Phase 4			
j (jug)	v (van)	w (wet)	x (fox)
y (yellow)	z (zoo)	zz (buzz)	qu (quick)
ch (chip)	sh (shop)	th (thin/then)	ng (ring)
ai (rain)	ee (feet)	igh (night)	oa (boat)
oo (boot/look)	ar (farm)	or (for)	ur (hurt)
ow (cow)	oi (coin)	ear (dear)	air (fair)
ure (sure)	er (corner)		

HERE ARE SOME WORDS WHICH YOUR CHILD MAY FIND TRICKY.

Phase 4 Tricky Words			
said	were	have	there
like	little	so	one
do	when	some	out
come	what		

BookLife
PUBLISHING

BookLife
Readers

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PHONICS FOCUS

/ai/ee/
/igh/

This book focuses on phonemes /ai/, /ee/ and /igh/ and is an orange level 6 book band.

The Pirates of Oyster Bay



Level 7 – Turquoise

BookLife
Readers

The logo for BookLife Readers. The word "BookLife" is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font above the word "Readers", which is in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. A simple black smiley face is positioned below the word "Readers".

The Pirates of Oyster Bay

Written by
Madeline Tyler

Illustrated by
Ryo Arata

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EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS to offer reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

AUTHOR INSIGHT: **MADLINE TYLER**

Native to Norfolk, England, Madeline Tyler's intelligence and professionalism can be felt in the 50-plus books that she has written for BookLife Publishing. A graduate of Queen Mary University of London with a 1st Class degree in Comparative Literature, she also received a University Volunteering Award for helping children to read at a local school.

When she was a child, Madeline enjoyed playing the violin, and she now relaxes through yoga and reading books!

PHONICS
FOCUS

/ay/oy/

This book focuses on phonemes /ay/ and /oy/ and is a turquoise level 7 book band.



It was a cold, dark day and there was a problem in Oyster Bay. It was a very big problem!

Kit's crew were annoyed with her. She needed to pay them, but there was no gold left. She had spent it all on a holiday!



"Ahoy there. I'm sorry but I can't pay you today," said Kit. "How about after my holiday?"
"NO!" shouted all of the crew.

"Pay us before you go away on holiday, or we won't be here when you come back!" said Tom the cabin boy.





Kit huffed and puffed and was very annoyed. There was no way out of this. She needed her crew to stay, but she had no gold!

“Okay, okay. You win,” said Kit. Now she just needed to think of a way to pay her crew. But what with?



"How can I pay my crew, Polly?" asked Kit. "I used all of the gold to pay for my holiday!"



"Oysters!" said Polly. Polly loved to eat oysters, but she loved to throw them at Kit even more. "Ow!" said Kit.



The next day, Kit had a plan. It was a very clever plan that had suddenly hit her in the head.

Kit had no gold, but they were in Oyster Bay. So instead of gold, she was going to pay the crew with...





Oysters!!

"Oysters!" said Kit.
"Oysters?" asked the crew.
"Oysters!" said Polly.
The crew did not look very happy.
"Are they golden oysters?" asked Tom.



"They may not be golden, but you can munch on them, and throw them, and even play with them!" answered Kit.



The crew had lots of fun playing with the oysters. "So, what do you say?" asked Kit. "Can I pay you with oysters?"

"Well, they are fun to play with," said Tom. "And they are yummy, too!" said Bob, with his mouth full of oysters.



It looked like the problem had been fixed, and Kit was happy. "Now I can go on holiday," she said to herself.



But just at that moment Polly appeared, and she looked like she was up to no good. "No, Polly!" said Kit. "Oysters!" said Polly.

Polly picked up the bucket and took it away.
She threw the oysters all over the ship and
across the bay.



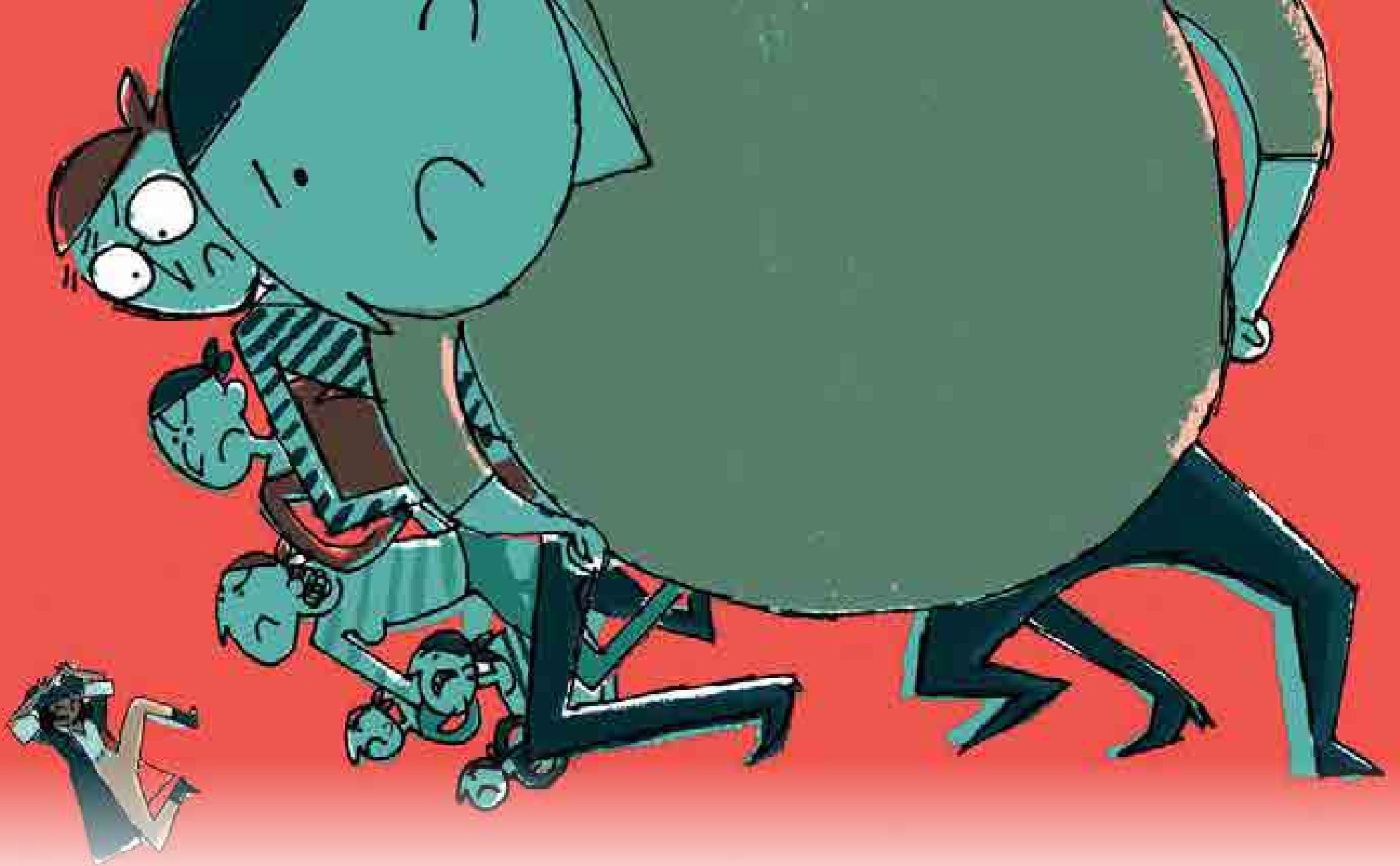
There were oysters in the sand and oysters up
the path. There were even oysters in a little
boy's hair!



They were in the crow's nest, on the poop deck and in the toybox. There were oysters everywhere, but now they were all destroyed!

"Our payment!" said the crew. They were very annoyed.

"What will you pay us with now that there are no oysters left?" asked Tom.



There was no gold and there were no oysters. What was Kit going to do? This was delaying her holiday and she wanted to go!

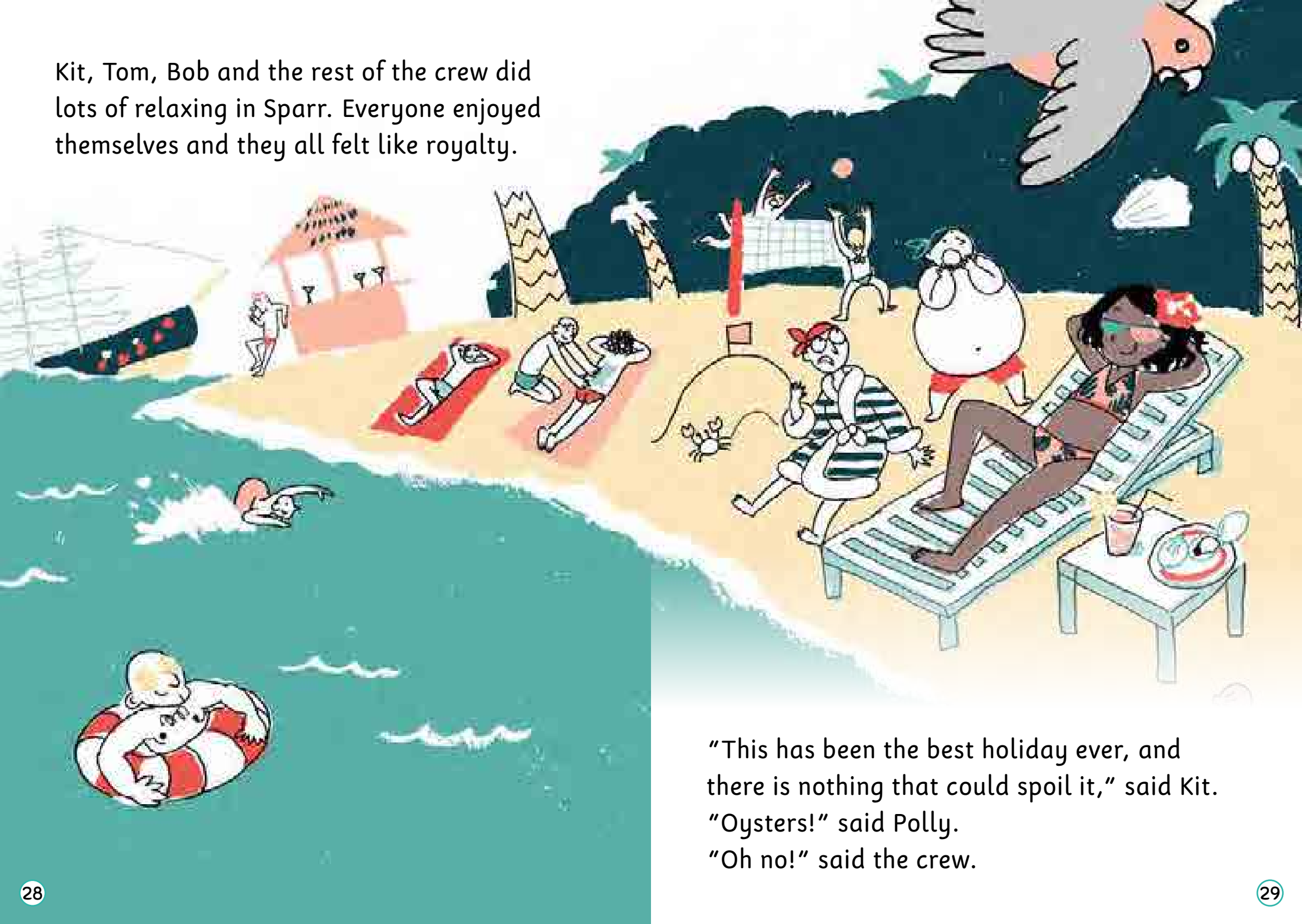
But then she had a plan. This plan was even better than the last one. And, most importantly, she could go away on holiday straight away!

“Okay crew,” said Kit. “I am going to pay you all with a holiday! You can come with me! What do you say?”



“Hooray!” said the crew.
“That’s even better than gold!” said Tom.
So, Kit and her crew left for a faraway land called Sparr.

Kit, Tom, Bob and the rest of the crew did lots of relaxing in Sparr. Everyone enjoyed themselves and they all felt like royalty.



"This has been the best holiday ever, and there is nothing that could spoil it," said Kit.
"Oysters!" said Polly.
"Oh no!" said the crew.

The Pirates of Oyster Bay

1. What had Kit spent all of the gold on?

2. How do you think Kit's crew were feeling when they thought they weren't going to be paid?

3. What did Polly do with the oysters?
 - (a) Threw them all over the ship and across the bay
 - (b) Ate them all
 - (c) Gave them out to the crew

4. Where did Kit and the crew go on holiday?

5. Do you think Kit was right to spend all the gold on a holiday? What would you have done if you were Kit?

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Phase 5			
ay (day)	ou (out)	ie (tie)	ea (eat)
oy (boy)	ir (girl)	ue (blue)	aw (saw)
wh (when)	ph (photo)	ew (new)	oe (toe)
au (Paul)	a_e (make)	e_e (these)	i_e (like)
o_e (home)	u_e (rule)		

HERE ARE SOME WORDS WHICH YOUR CHILD MAY FIND TRICKY.

Phase 5 Tricky Words			
school	lamb	write	doubt
mosquito	autumn	rhyme	penguin
rough	gnat	scent	one
who	knock	listen	onion

TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

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BookLife PUBLISHING **BookLife** Readers

PHONICS FOCUS

/ay/oy/

This book focuses on phonemes /ay/ and /oy/ and is a turquoise level 7 book band.

Good Morning, Monster Town



Level 8 – Purple

BookLife
Readers

Good Morning, Monster Town

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AUTHOR INSIGHT: **JOHN WOOD**

An incredibly creative and talented author, John Wood has written about 60 books for BookLife Publishing. Born in Warwickshire, he graduated with a BA in English Literature and English Language from De Montford University. During his studies, he learned about literature, styles of language, linguistic relativism, and psycholinguistics, which is the study of the effects of language on the brain. Thanks to his learnings, John successfully uses words that captivate and resonate with children and that will be sure to make them retain information. His stories are entertaining, memorable, and extremely fun to read.

**PHONICS
FOCUS**

/a_e/o_e/

This book focuses on phonemes /a_e/ and /o_e/
and is a purple level 8 book band.



Written by
John Wood

Illustrated by
Kris Jones

It was a cold winter's night in Monster Town. All the monsters were sleeping. The only sounds came from the wind and the snores of the oldest monsters.



Most of the monsters were having nightmares. They were dreaming about the scariest monster of them all. The monster they dreamed of made all the children and grown-up monsters shake with fear.



The monster's name was Grome. He lived in a cave on the hill. It was his job to wake everyone up in the morning so the grown-ups could go to work and the children could go to school.

As the Sun rose, Grome grabbed his trombone. He blew hard. The blare of the trombone made the houses quake and the trees tremble.



Grome played one more low note just to make sure everybody was awake. BRRRUMP, went the trombone.

As soon as the sound of the trombone had faded, the town began to stir. Suddenly there were monsters everywhere. The monsters were grumpy and moody as they got ready for the day ahead.



High on the hill, Grome sat with Jane. Jane was a talking bird, but she didn't say much. "It's not fair," said Grome, his voice sad as he spoke.

"I need to wake them up, or they will be late," said Grome. "But everyone hates me." Jane was about to speak, but instead she patted her friend's head.



Down in the town, three monsters were walking to school.

"I hate that trombone," said the fat monster.

"Me too," said the thin monster.

Suddenly, the long monster had an idea. She poked the other monsters and whispered something. "I have a plan for tomorrow," she said. Then she tapped her nose. That meant it was a secret.



The next morning, Grome was getting ready to wake everyone up. Just before the Sun rose, he opened his trombone case, then gasped in shock.

Someone had stolen his trombone! Grome didn't know what to do. He had to wake the monsters up or they would all be late!



Grome ran outside to shake his maracas. The maracas were not very loud. He sang at the same time. But Grome's little voice didn't make much noise.

Grome dropped his maracas. All those years of maraca practice had been a complete waste. "I'm going to need the big maracas," thought Grome. He ran back into his cave.



But Grome couldn't find the big maracas. Instead, he grabbed his vibraphone and two sticks. "I hope this will work," he said. He was running out of ideas.

But the vibraphone had a very calm and peaceful sound. Grome felt very sleepy. Luckily, one of the sticks broke and hit him in the face. That quickly woke him up!



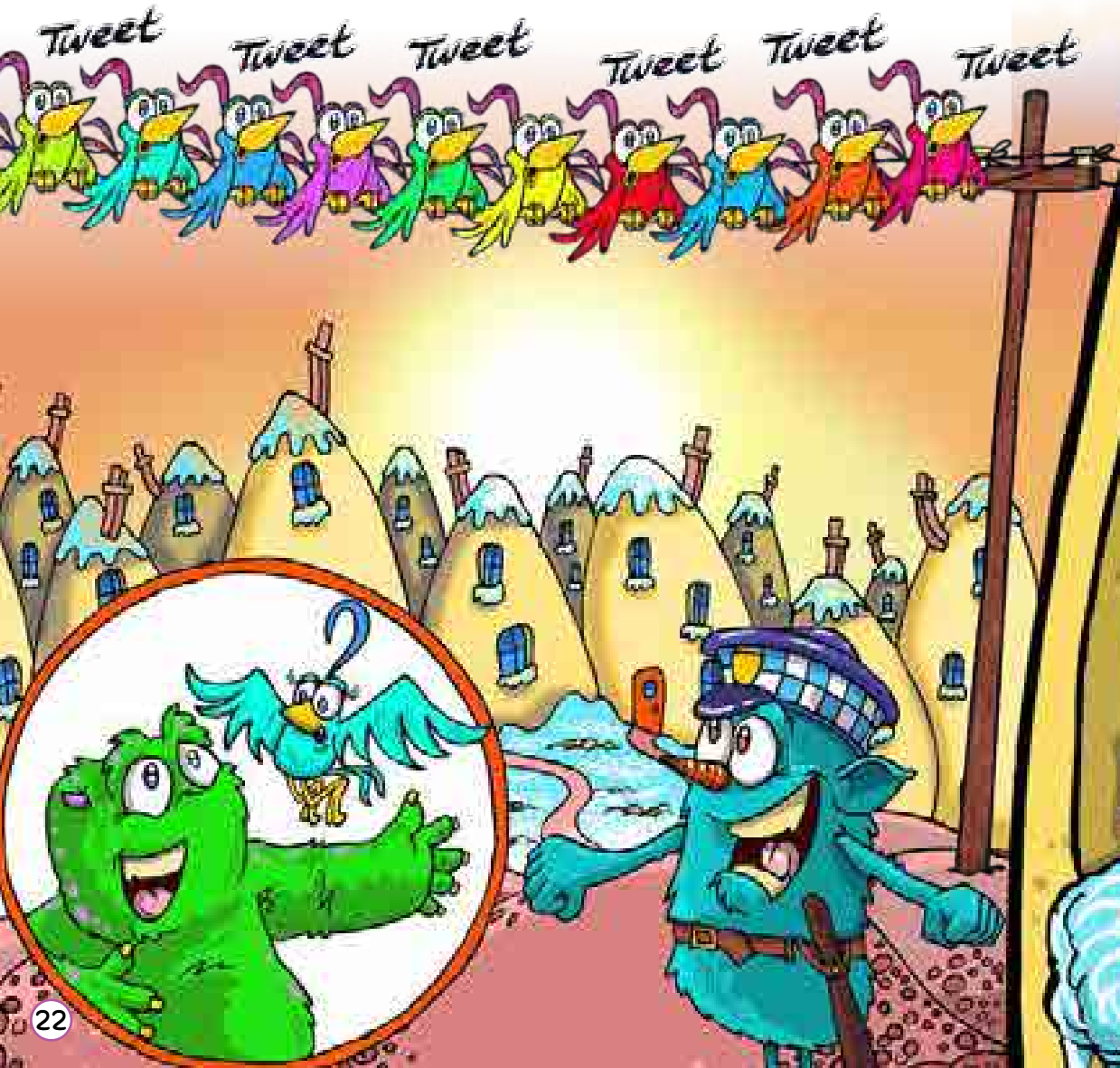
Grome went back inside and got the biggest tuba he could find. He dragged it out of the cave and blew it as hard as he could.



But no sound came out of the hole. Grome looked closer. The tuba was full of mud and a very sleepy mole. "Oh no," said Grome. "Everyone will be late!"

Then Jane flew past. "Jane!" said Grome. "I'm glad you are here. Can you ask the other birds to help me wake everyone up? Please?" Jane nodded and flew away again.

Soon the sound of birdsong drifted down to Monster Town. The sound was lovely. Slowly, the monsters woke up. It was the perfect way to start the day.



The little monsters went to school and the big monsters went to work. They were smiling and waving.

“You should ask the birds to help you every day,” one monster suggested to Grome as she rode to work on her bike.

“That is a great idea! I’ll ask them right away,” said Grome as he waved back.



The next morning, some monsters were dozing in their homes. Suddenly there was a horrid sound. Whatever was making the sound was getting closer and closer.



The monsters rose from their beds. They covered their ears with their hands. They stuffed their faces into pillows. The sound was getting louder and louder and LOUDER.



It was a giant flock of birds, and each one of them was playing a little trombone! The big brass band of birds swept through the streets. Windows were smashed. Trombones squawked. The town was full of fanfare and feathers.

"This isn't what we meant at all!" the monsters shouted. But nobody could hear anything over the sound of trombones.



Good Morning, Monster Town

1. What were the monsters dreaming about?

2. Why does Grome think everyone hates him?

3. What was stolen from Grome?

4. What sort of animal is Jane?
 - (a) A bird
 - (b) A monkey
 - (c) A snake

5. How do you think the monsters felt when the giant flock of birds arrived? Do you think the birds were helpful?

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who	knock	listen	onion

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PHONICS FOCUS

/a_e/o_e/

This book focuses on phonemes /a_e/ and /o_e/ and is a purple level 8 book band.

First Kid on Mars

Level 9 – Gold



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AUTHOR INSIGHT: **KIRSTY HOLMES**

Kirsty Holmes, holder of a BA, PGCE, and an MA, was born in Norfolk, England. She has written over 60 books for BookLife Publishing, and her stories are full of imagination, creativity and fun.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a gold level 9 book band.

First Kid on Mars

Written by
Kirsty Holmes

Illustrated by
Brandon Mattless



My name is Laura Crusoe. In some ways, I bet I'm just like you. I live with my Mum, Sue, and my Dad, Joe. I have a blue bedroom with blue bedcovers on my bed, because blue is my favourite colour. I'm good at maths and rubbish at spelling, and I really, really love space!

I do my homework, I eat my vegetables, and I love video games.

There is one big difference between you and me, though...



I don't just dream of being an astronaut one day. I already am one!
My family, the Crusoes, are the world's first – and only – family of astronauts. Our mission is to live on Mars for a year, where we will study how plants, animals and a human family can live here on the famous red planet!



6



We built our base down here in Cosmos Bay because the weather on Mars can be really wild. There are lightning storms and even tornadoes! This can be a bit of an issue when you want to build a house.

7

Some days can be pretty crazy. One morning last week, Mum came into the control pod, where Dad and I were having breakfast. "Joe, we need to go out today," said Mum. "The tornadoes from last night have damaged the camera on the other side of Cosmos Bay."

"Laura, you stay here. Someone will need to feed all the animals," said Dad. "You know how grumpy Bluebell and Prue get if they miss a meal!" said Mum. I like being in charge of the animals.

Mum and Dad study what they call the 'flora and fauna' on Mars. Flora and fauna mean plants and animals. They are trying to find out which ones will do well here. This means we have a lot of animals at the base with us.

All the animals were chosen because they can live in tough places on Earth. This means we have some strange animals here! First, I feed the dingoes. They like it when I scratch behind their ears and stroke their backs.



Then I feed our buffalo, Bluebell and Prue.
They are sisters. They have loads of shaggy,
auburn fur and they like it when I brush it.
They like to eat grass and the leaves from the
tomatoes that Dad grows.



I always save the geckoes for last because
they are my favourites. There are six of them.
They are so pretty, with their bright colours.
The blue one always comes right up to me
when he sees me. I think he likes me.



That day, after I fed all the animals, I went up to the control pod to finish my breakfast. I pressed the button to activate the automatic locks and sat down at the main desk.

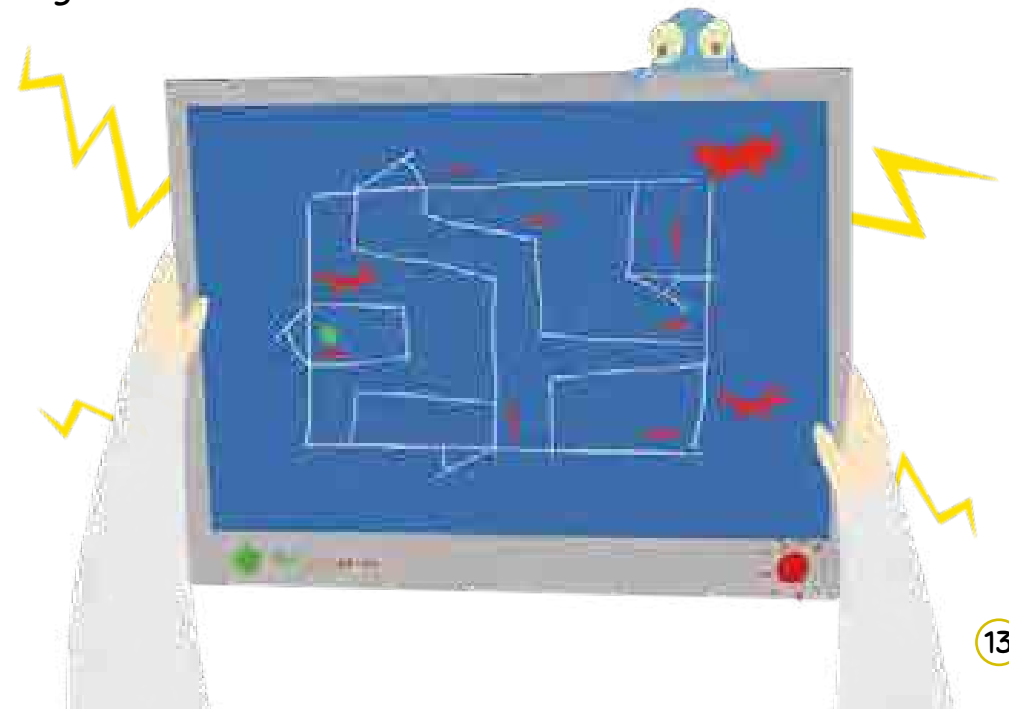


But I didn't notice that one of the geckoes had snuck out with me!

Scared, it launched itself out of my pocket! I tried to catch it, but I knocked my hot chocolate onto the controls! I grabbed some tissues and mopped up the liquid, but the



controls fizzed and crackled! Uh-oh. This was going to be an issue... The liquid had caused the automatic locks to open... and the animals had all escaped! I had to get them all safely back into their pods before Mum and Dad got back! I picked up the gecko. It was the little blue one! "Right, you," I said. "You caused this, so you are going to help me sort it out. But first, you need a name. How about... GALAXY!" Galaxy smiled. I think he liked his new name. Now then, where could all the animals have gone?



“Right, Galaxy. First, we’d better find those buffalo!” I said, popping him into my pocket. Now, I had never seen Bluebell or Prue move any faster than a lazy saunter, so they couldn’t have gone far. Just then, there was a crash from the storeroom pod. I rushed in. There was mess everywhere! “Oh dear,” I said, with a rueful smile. The two buffaloes were mooing at me sadly.



On the floor next to them was an empty can of space glue! Somehow, they must have sat in it, and then got stuck together. Bluebell and Prue had so much space glue in their long auburn fur that they were completely stuck together!



There was nothing for it. Nothing in the world was as sticky as space glue! I grabbed a pair of shears and began to snip their auburn fur away.

True, they both had giant bald patches on their haunches, but they were free!

I took them back to their pod and closed the door. Next, it was time to find the dingoes.

Galaxy stuck his head out of my pocket as if he was listening to something.



Sure enough, there was a faint barking sound. I followed the faint echoes of the barking. As I walked along the corridors, it got louder. I knew I was getting closer. Galaxy ducked into my pocket again. We were outside the laundry pod. I could hear the dingoes louder than ever...





Inside the laundry pod, the washing machines were on, washing our spare spacesuits. The dingoes were watching them go round and round, like an audience watching a sports match. Silly dingoes!

I quietly tied lots of space boots together. Then I ran down the corridor, boots rattling. Just like dogs back on Earth, the dingoes couldn't resist, and chased me all the way to their pod!

Galaxy applauded. I think he was impressed by my trick!



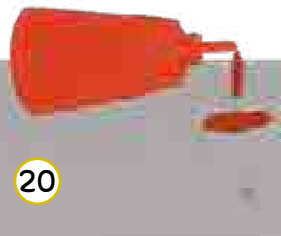
“OK, Galaxy. Where did all your friends go, then?” I said. Galaxy launched himself out of my pocket and ran down to the kitchen pod. It was a complete mess.

The geckoes had been here alright. It looked as though the tornadoes from outside had got in and had a party in the kitchen! Galaxy was jumping around near a puddle of tomato sauce.

“Well done, Galaxy!” I said. “We can follow the footprints!”

Galaxy and I tracked the geckoes down the corridor. There were little sticky, saucy footprints everywhere! We whooshed through the automatic doors one by one, until finally the sauce ran out.

“Where did they go, Galaxy?” I asked.



Just then, there was a huge crash from the music pod. Poor little Galaxy launched himself at me in fright. I put him safely in my pocket. Could tiny little geckoes be making that much noise?

Sure enough, they were. Two were bouncing on the bongos. Another was twanging the taut, metallic strings of an electric guitar and one was playing with a flute!

Galaxy made one, so that was two, three, four, five...

Where was the sixth? The little red one with yellow toes?

Squeak!

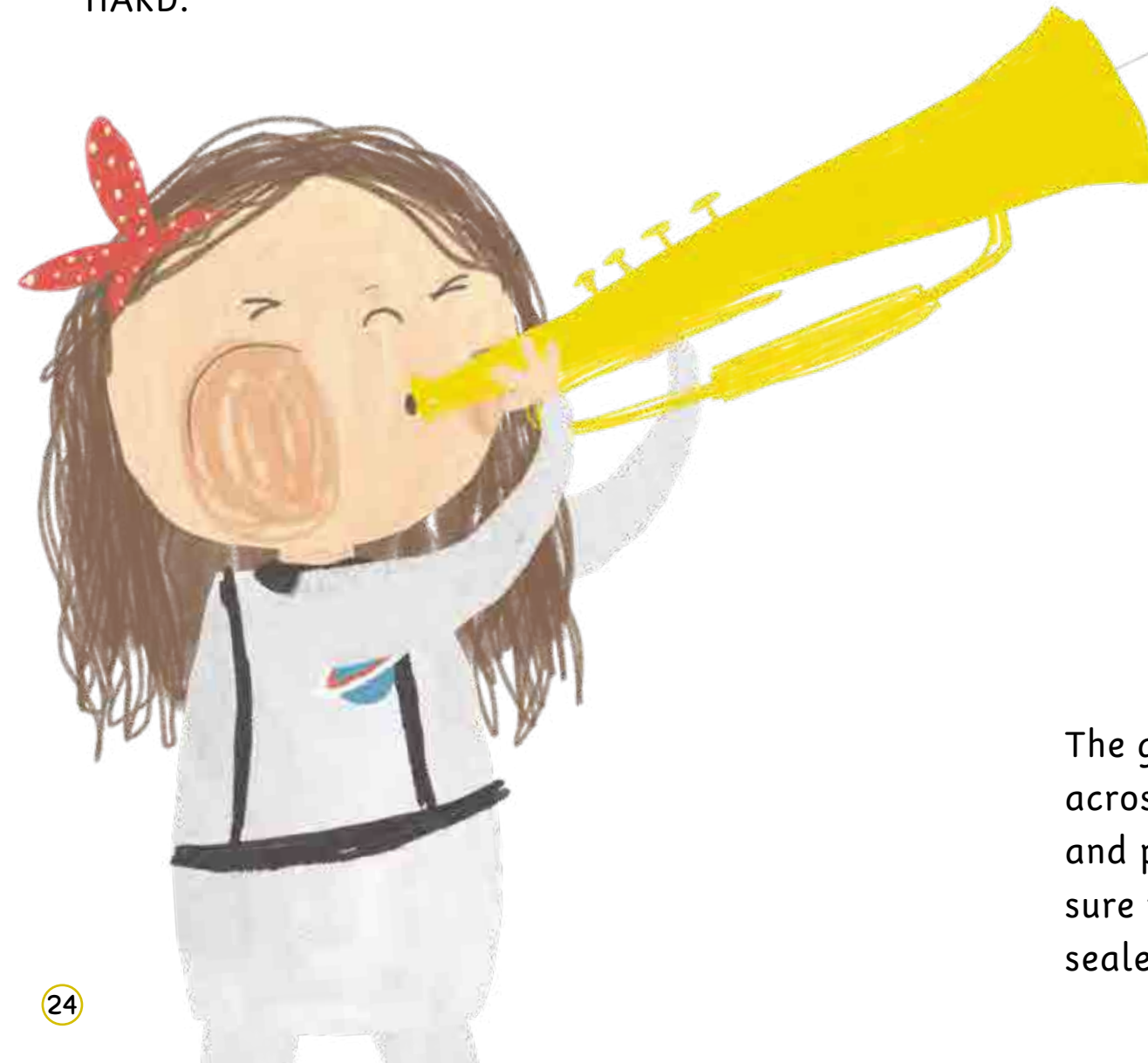
There was a strange sound. I couldn't see what was causing it.

Squeak!

Just then, I caught sight of the trumpet out of the corner of my eye. There was a red tail sticking out of it!



There was only one thing for it. I lifted the trumpet and blew. All the other geckoes watched... But nothing. I blew again. "Here goes nothing!" I said. I blew again. HARD.



The gecko shot out of the trumpet and flew across the room! I scooped up all six geckoes and put them into my pockets. Then I made sure they were safely back in their pod and sealed the door with the last of the space glue.

I whooshed through the automatic door. I paused by the exit to the main pod. Was there something wriggling about in my pocket?

pod and clean all the spilled sauce from the kitchen. It was going to be a busy morning while I waited for Mum and Dad to get back.



It was Galaxy!

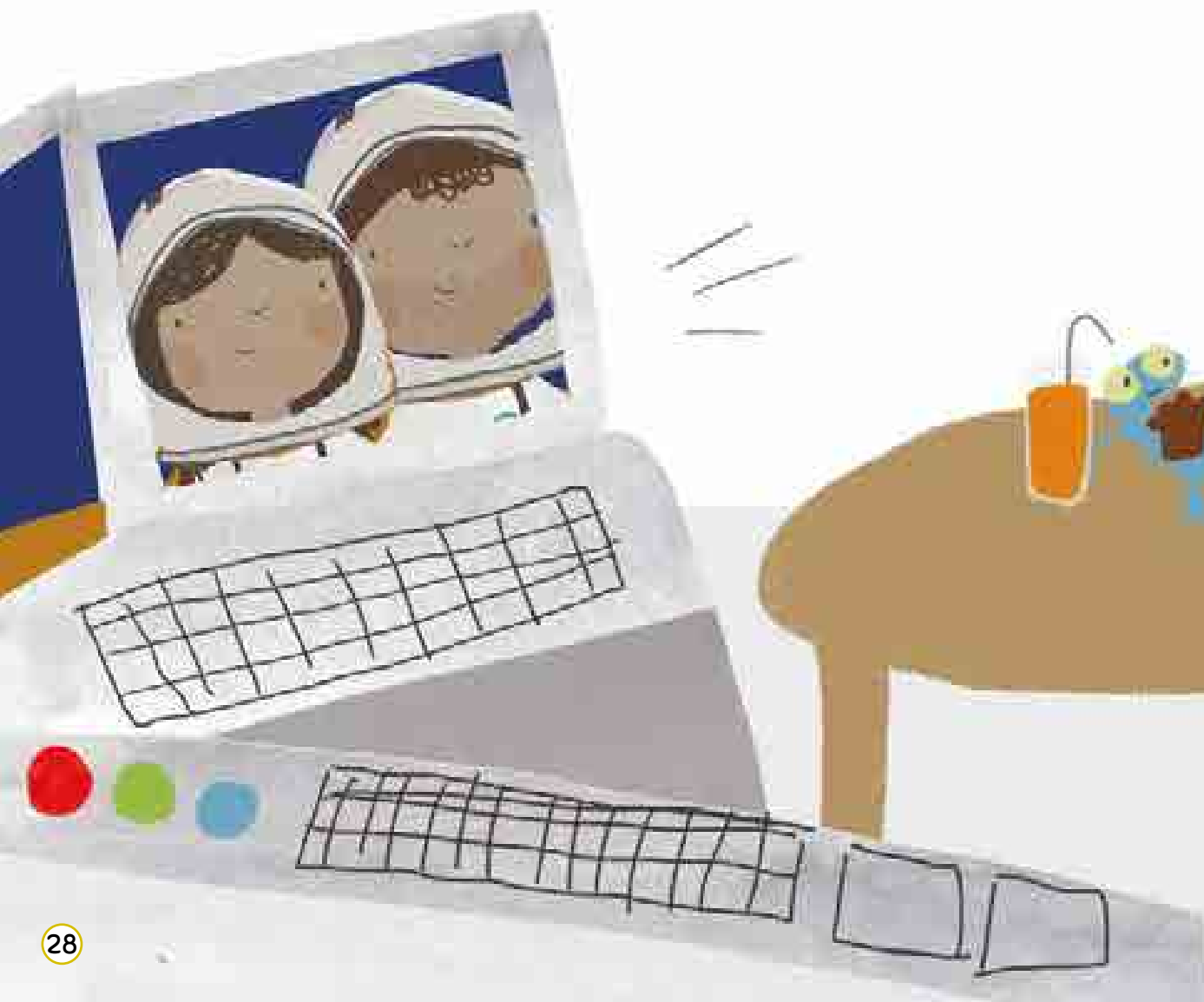
"How did you get out?" I tickled his little belly. "Well, you might as well come with me for the morning then."

I popped Galaxy back in my pocket. I would have to put the boots back in the laundry



I shared a muffin with Galaxy and we cleaned up the desk. Mum would know how to fix the automatic locks when she got back. Until then, the space glue should hold everything. But just then, the screen crackled into life.

“Laura? It’s Mum and Dad! We got the cameras fixed. Is everything OK?” called Mum. “Hi, Mum. Yes, everything’s fine. Just a couple of small issues but nothing Galaxy and I couldn’t solve,” I said, winking at Galaxy.



First Kid on Mars

1. What was the Crusoe's family mission?
2. Which animals did Laura feed first?
3. How did Bluebell and Prue get stuck together?
4. What was the puddle of sauce on the kitchen floor?
 - (a) Chocolate
 - (b) Tomato
 - (c) Cheese
5. Do you think Laura was right to hide the animal escapes from her Mum and Dad? Would you have done the same?

Helpful Hints for Reading at Home

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HERE ARE SOME COMMON WORDS THAT YOUR CHILD MIGHT FIND TRICKY:

water	where	would	know	thought	through	couldn't
laughed	eyes	once	we're	school	can't	our

TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

- Encourage your child to read aloud as well as silently to themselves.
- Allow your child time to absorb the text and make comments.
- Ask simple questions about the text to assess understanding.
- Encourage your child to clarify the meaning of new vocabulary.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a gold level 9 book band.

You've Got to Be Calmer, Llama!

Level 10 – White

BookLife
Readers

The logo for BookLife Readers features the text "BookLife" in a smaller font above "Readers" in a larger font. A small heart icon is positioned to the left of the letter "e" in "Readers". Below the word "Readers" is a simple, curved line that forms a smile.

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Each book has been created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books with children, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

BOOK BAND GRADED using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

PHONETICALLY DECODABLE supporting each phase of Letters and Sounds.

EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS to offer reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

AUTHOR INSIGHT: **WILLIAM ANTHONY**

Despite his young age, William Anthony's involvement with children's education is quite extensive. He has written over 60 titles with BookLife Publishing so far, across a wide range of subjects. William graduated from Cardiff University with a 1st Class BA (Hons) in Journalism, Media and Culture, creating an app and a TV series, among other things, during his time there.

William Anthony has also produced work for the Prince's Trust, a charity created by HRH The Prince of Wales that helps young people with their professional future. He has created animated videos for a children's education company that works closely with the charity.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a white level 10 book band.



Written by
William Anthony

Illustrated by
Richard Bayley

Chapter One

Between a Rock and a Harsh Face

"Have we got a problem?" grumbled Llama. Zebra put his hooves over his eyes. He didn't like it when Llama got grumpy.

"Don't look at me like that! Who do you think you are?" Llama continued. The Lemur Brothers giggled away in the tree.

"You think you're so great, don't you?" Llama sneered.

She was in the mood for an argument. Nothing was going to get in her way.

"Come on, don't just sit there. Explain yourself!"



Rhino came up to the fence. "Llama!" she shouted. "Why are you having an argument with a rock?"

The Lemur Brothers couldn't hold in their laughter anymore.

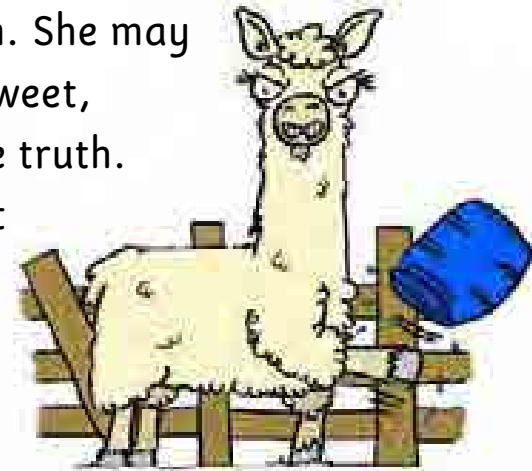
"The humans are watching; you've got to be calmer, Llama!" insisted Rhino.



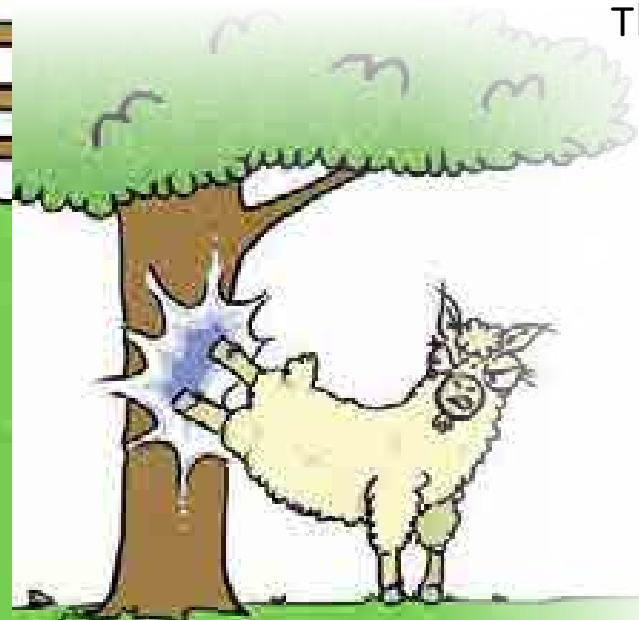
Llama was far from calm. She may have looked fluffy and sweet,

but that was far from the truth. Llama was the grumpiest animal in Ginger Zoo.

Last week, she went on a rampage because one of her fence posts was just a little bit wonky.



The week before that, the birds whistled a note slightly out of tune in one of their morning songs. Llama didn't take too kindly to that, either. Llama was hard to keep under control, but the other animals needed her. Tonight was the big night.



Chapter Two

The Big Night

"Quiet at the back! Does everyone remember their jobs?" asked Orangutan.

"Not really," said Elephant. He always forgot things.

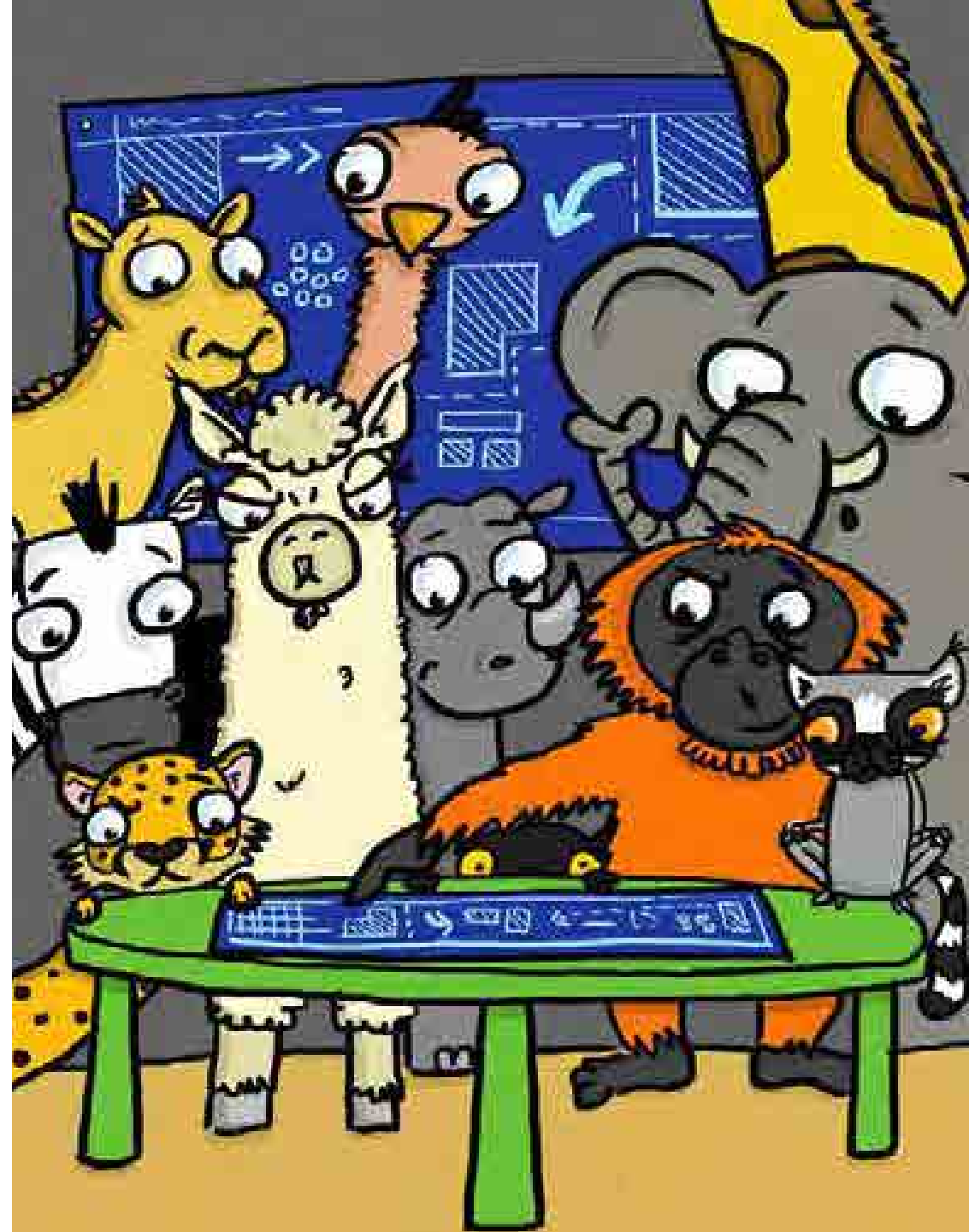
"I don't either," said Camel. Camel wasn't forgetful. He was just born lazy.

"Does anyone remember their jobs?" sighed Orangutan. Not a single hoof or paw was raised.

Orangutan was losing the will to live. She barked out the escape plan one last time.

"Llama, you distract the zookeepers," she ordered.

"What did you just say to me?" argued Llama.



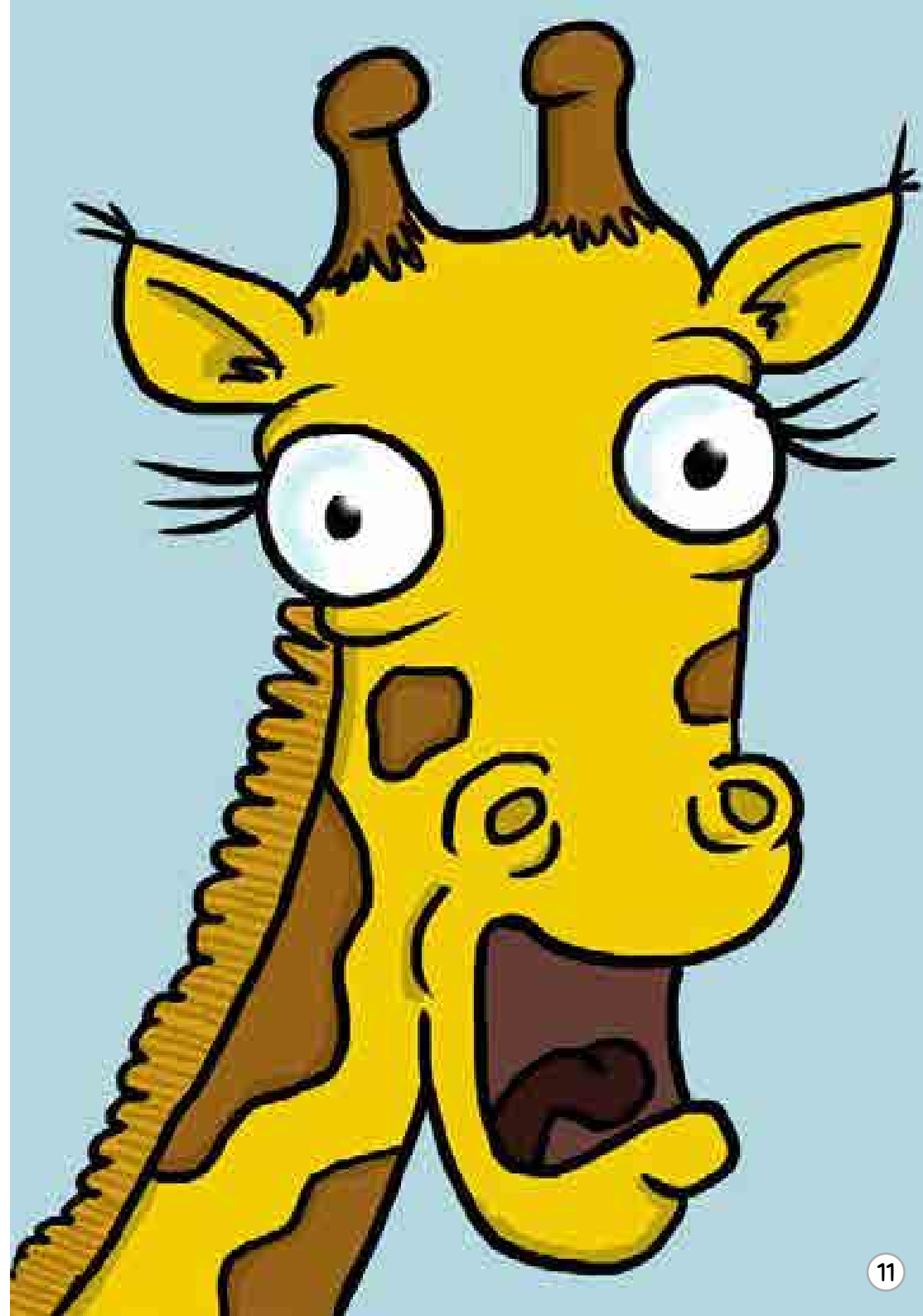
"Camel, you break down the gate," yelled Orangutan. "Elephant, you direct animal traffic. Giraffe, you're our lookout, of course. Zebra, you... You just try to stay relaxed."
"I'm not sure I can manage that," quivered Zebra.

"Cheetah, no eating the other animals," said Orangutan. Cheetah rolled her eyes. "I want to see lots of energy. Let's get out of here!"

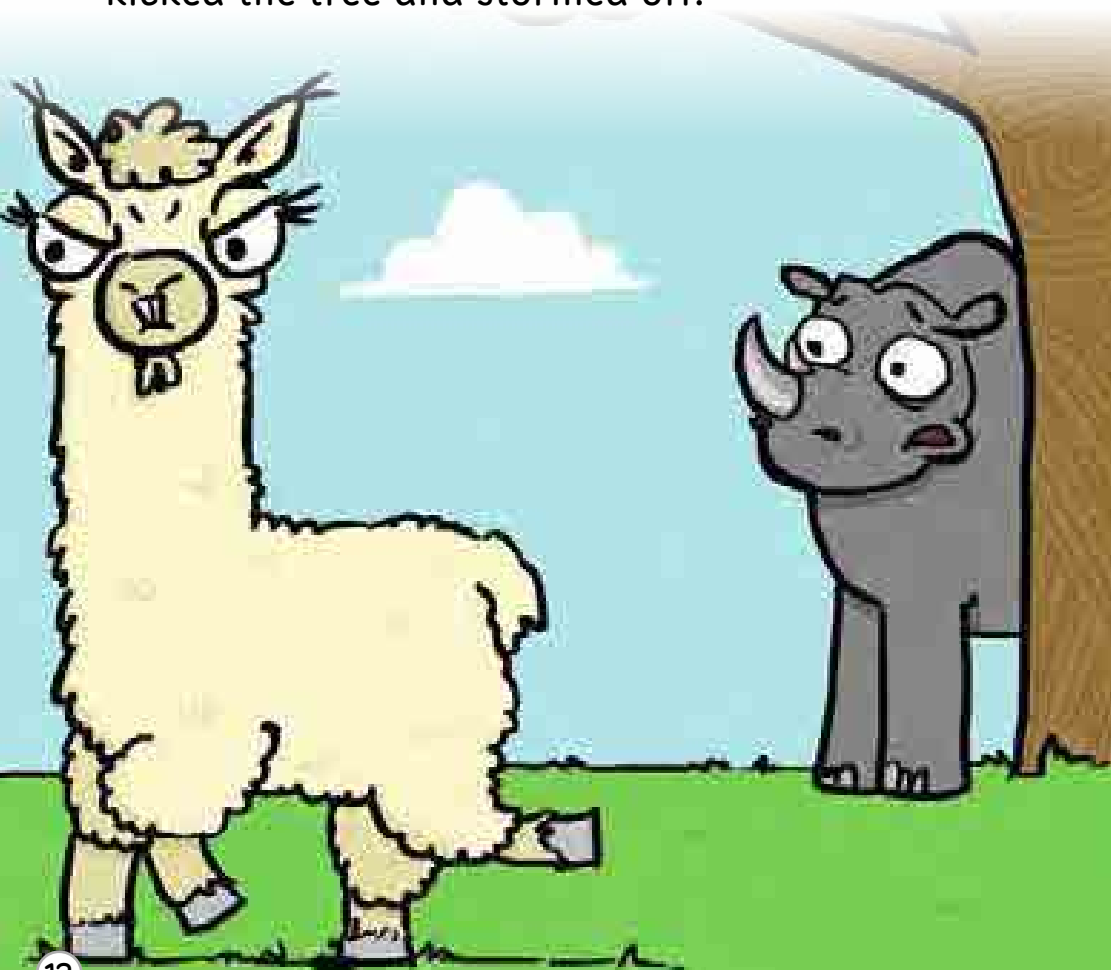
On Orangutan's call, everyone began. The plan was off to a good start. Camel was slowly damaging the gate and Elephant was directing the animals well. Giraffe was a good lookout. He was so good that he noticed a huge problem.

The zookeepers were walking towards Elephant. Llama was supposed to be distracting them, but she was nowhere to be seen.

"Danger! Abort!" screamed Giraffe. The animals scrambled back to their enclosures. The plan had failed. Rhino went to find Llama.



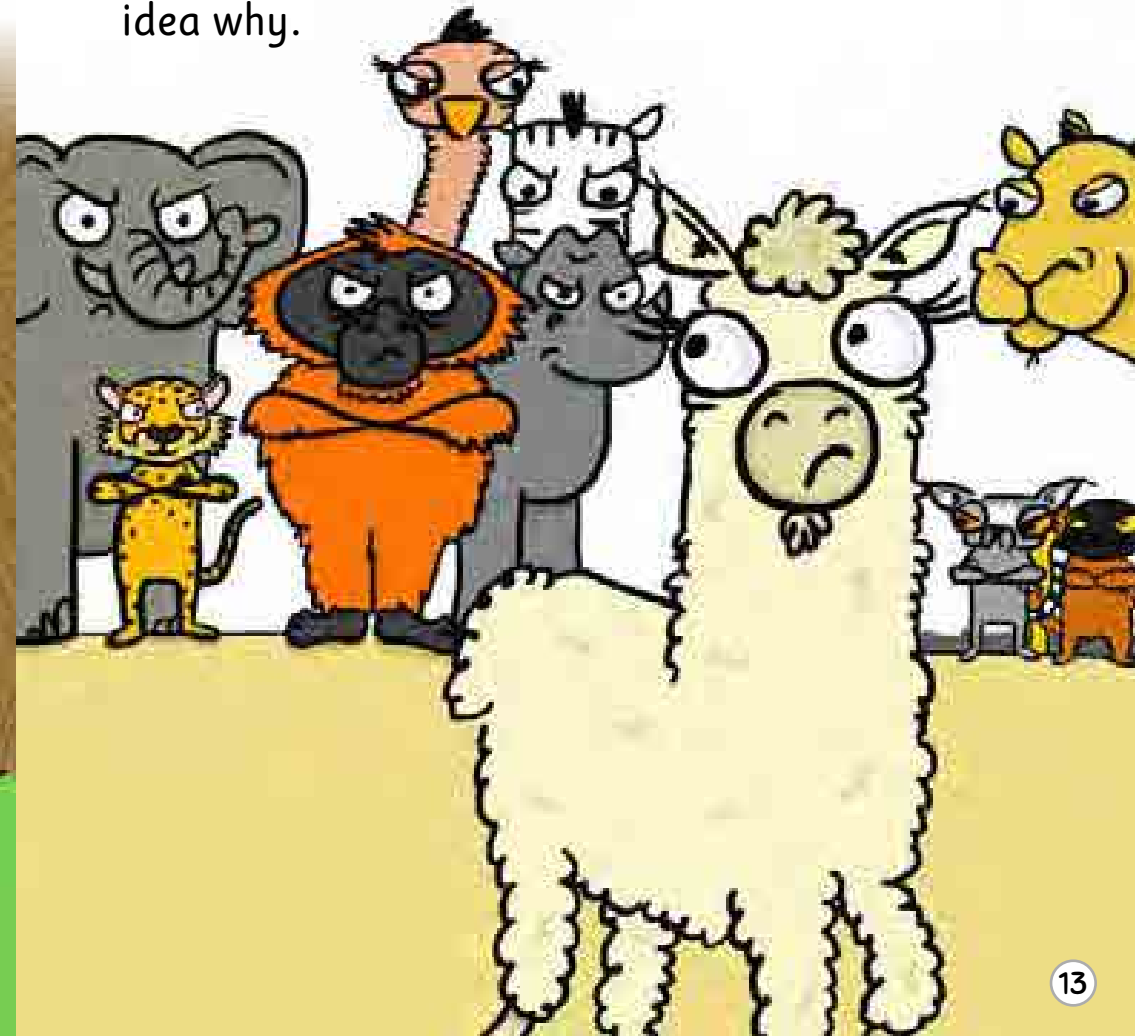
Rhino found Llama arguing with a tree.
"Yo, Rhino, this tree is being super-rude to me," whinged Llama.
"It's a tree, Llama. Trees don't speak. Did you forget about the plan?" asked Rhino.
"You pointless piece of giant bark, you made me miss the escape plan!" raged Llama. She kicked the tree and stormed off.



Chapter Three

Yoga, Whales and Sheep

The mood in Ginger Zoo was rather tense the next day. Llama had a slight feeling that it might have been because of her, but she had no idea why.



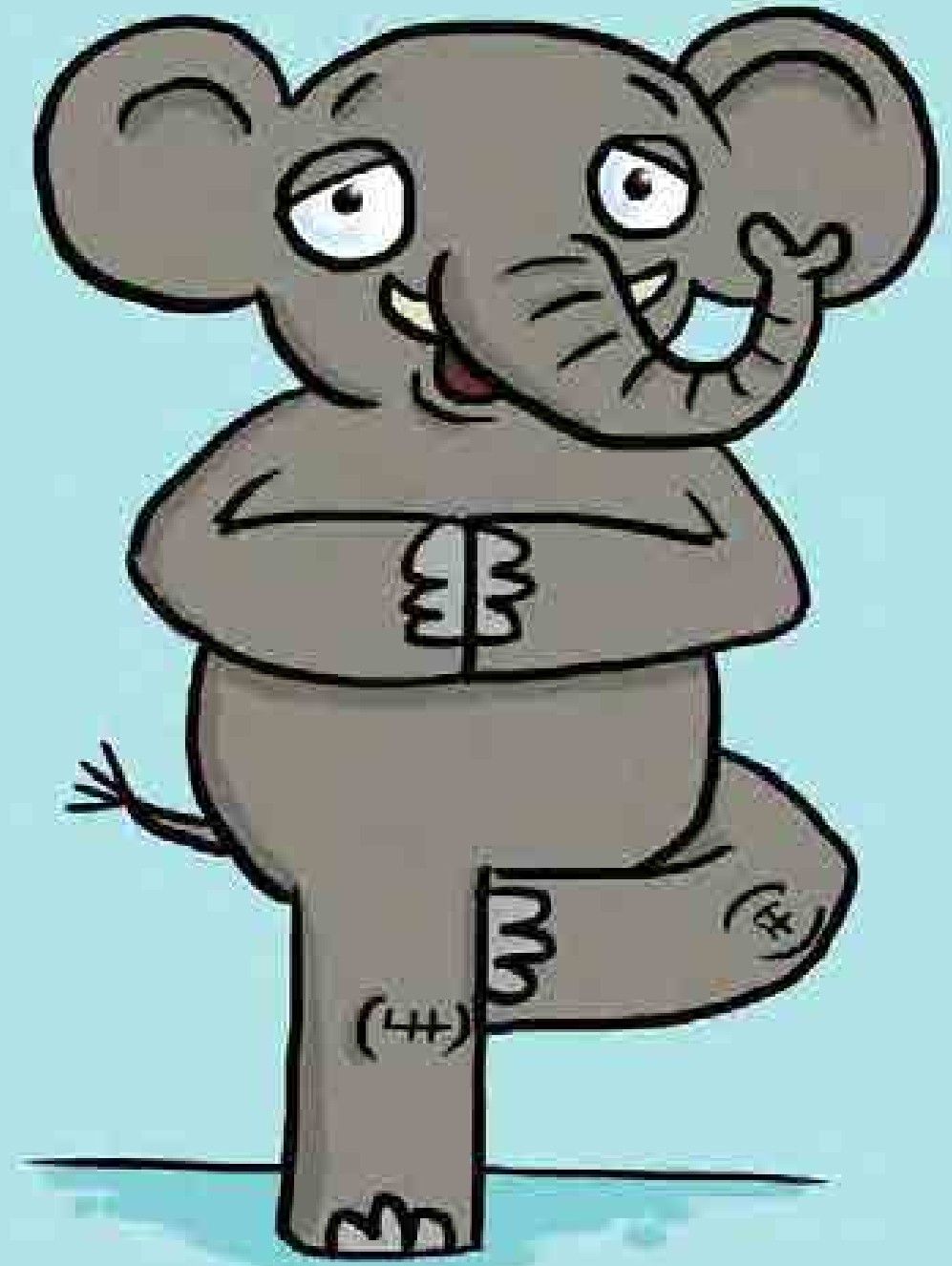
The group decided their only option was to find some ways to help Llama relax.

Zebra led a yoga class for Llama. Yoga helped Zebra to stop worrying. He was very good at the High Lunge. Orangutan was great at the Downward-Facing Dog. No one could pull off the Lord of the Dance like Giraffe.

Elephant tried the Tree pose. Llama wasn't happy about that.

"How dare you, Elephant? Do you not remember the tragic events of last night?" barked Llama.

Yoga didn't work.



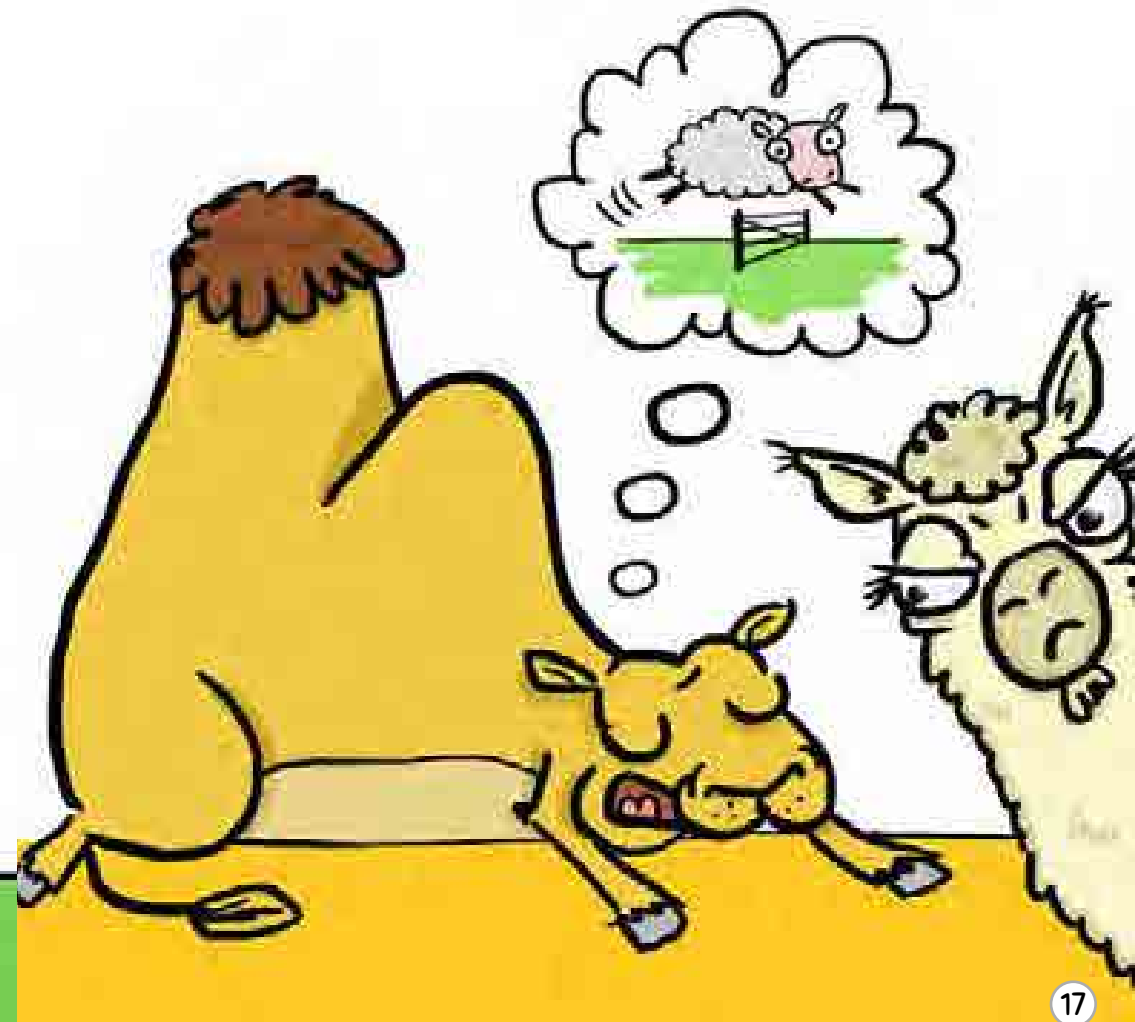
The Lemur Brothers had another idea. They sat Llama down and snuck off to the zookeepers' office. They plugged in one of the keepers' phones and played whale noises over the zoo's speakers, but Llama preferred to listen to reggae.

Music didn't work.



Camel loved to lounge around and take naps. He counted sheep to help him get off to sleep. Llama got very frustrated when she tried. She couldn't see sheep anywhere! Camel was too busy snoring to notice.

Counting sheep didn't work.



The other animals heard Llama's gigantic outburst and came to look.

"What's going on in here?" asked Rhino.

"You've got to be calmer, Llama!" shouted Orangutan.

Llama had had enough. "WHY SHOULD I?" she boomed.



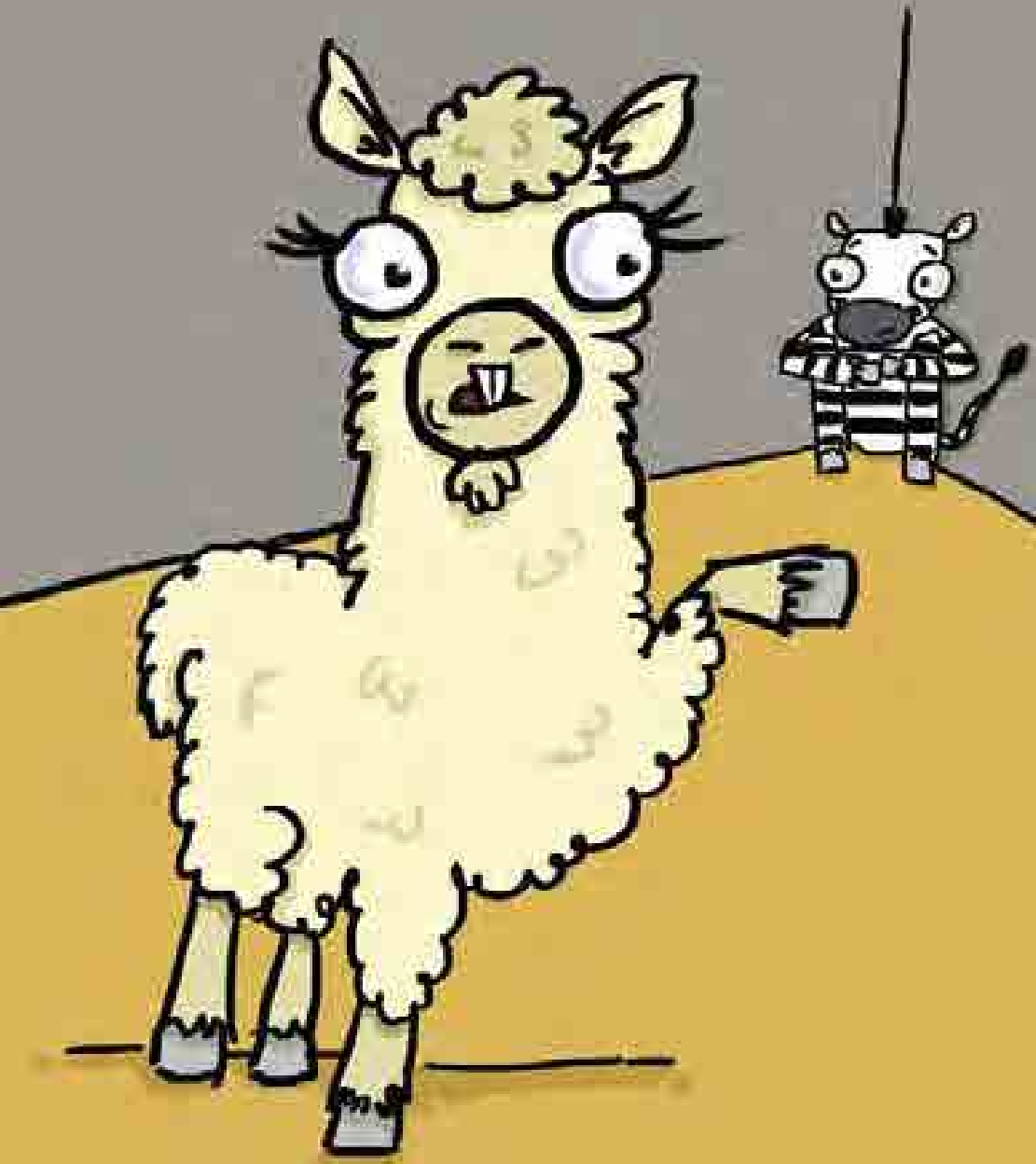
Chapter Four

Apologies

"I'm tired of everyone telling me that I need to be calmer!" huffed Llama. "You're all so busy telling me off that you forget about yourselves," she fumed.

Llama completely let go.

"Camel, you are the laziest animal I know," grumbled Llama. "Elephant, you're so forgetful that there's no point in telling you anything! All Orangutan wants to do is boss everyone around, and you two Lemur Brothers are just mean and cheeky! Rhino, you... actually, you're quite good. There's no surprise that Zebra is hiding in the corner over there, and let's not forget about Cheetah – she just wants to eat everyone!" Cheetah stopped licking her lips.



"We all have problems, but I don't tell you guys off for yours," finished Llama.

It went silent. Llama was right. She had never judged any of the other animals for their problems, but everyone told Llama off for not being calm enough.

"You're right, Llama. I'm sorry," apologised Camel.

"I'm sorry, too," added Orangutan. "We all are."

"Don't be sorry. It's me who needs to make an apology," said Llama. "I ruined the escape plan. But I think we should try it again tonight. We make a good team together."

One by one, the animals started to smile. Even Llama managed a grin in a big group hug.



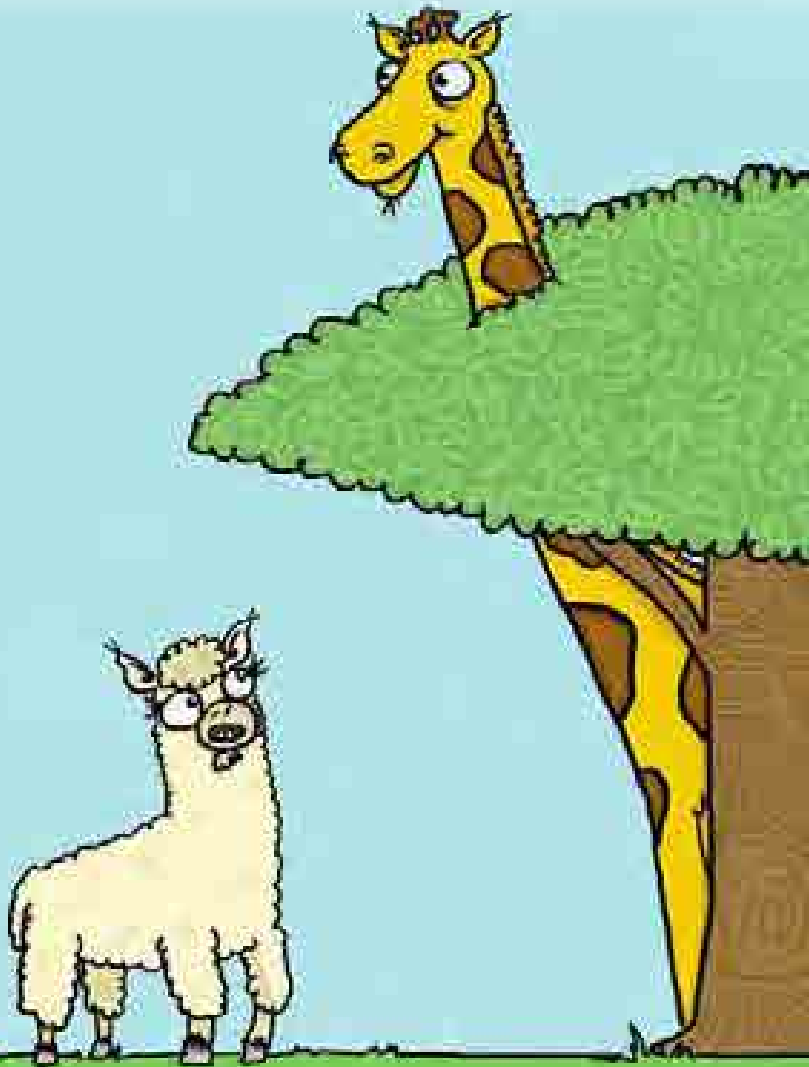
Chapter Five

The Big Night after the Big Night

Orangutan got everyone into position. Camel was ready to break the gate off its hinges, Giraffe was on the lookout, Elephant was ready to direct traffic and even Zebra was managing to stay relaxed.



Llama stood waiting for the zookeepers. She waited and waited, but they never came. Something strange was happening. "Giraffe, where are they? Can you see them?" Llama called out.



Giraffe scanned left to right until he spotted them. They had taken a new route on their night patrol. As if that wasn't bad enough, Giraffe noticed an even bigger problem. "Llama! They're heading right towards Camel!" he yelled.



Llama scrambled over to Camel to warn him. The other animals gathered around. This was their big chance to finally escape, but they only had a few moments to do it. An idea popped into Llama's head.

"You need to make me annoyed at the gate," said Llama.

"Are you joking?" moaned one of the Lemur Brothers.

"Make me grumpy! NOW!" yelled Llama.



"Umm... I heard the gate said you were too fluffy," said Zebra.

"Oh it did, did it? Listen here, you pile of deadwood, this is top-quality fluff," argued Llama.



"It told me that your neck was too long," added Orangutan.

"It said what? My neck is the perfect length!" growled Llama.



"It said you've got to be calmer, Llama!" shouted Rhino.

"AAARRRGGGHHH!" screamed Llama, as she charged at the gate...



The zookeepers were doing their patrol. One of them tripped over a plank of wood. The other one found a hinge in the grass. They looked up at what was left of the gate.

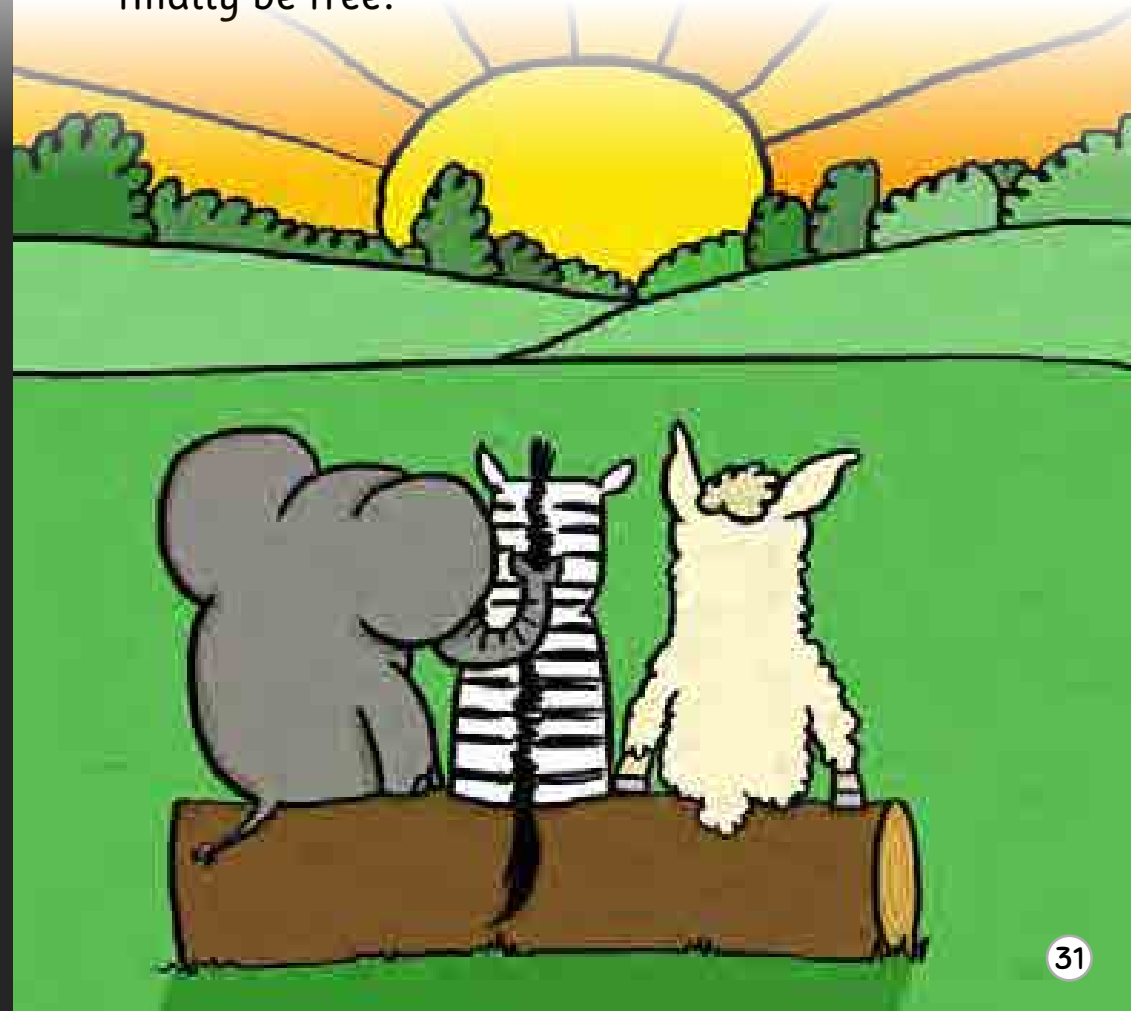
"We've got a problem," they said together.



Chapter Six

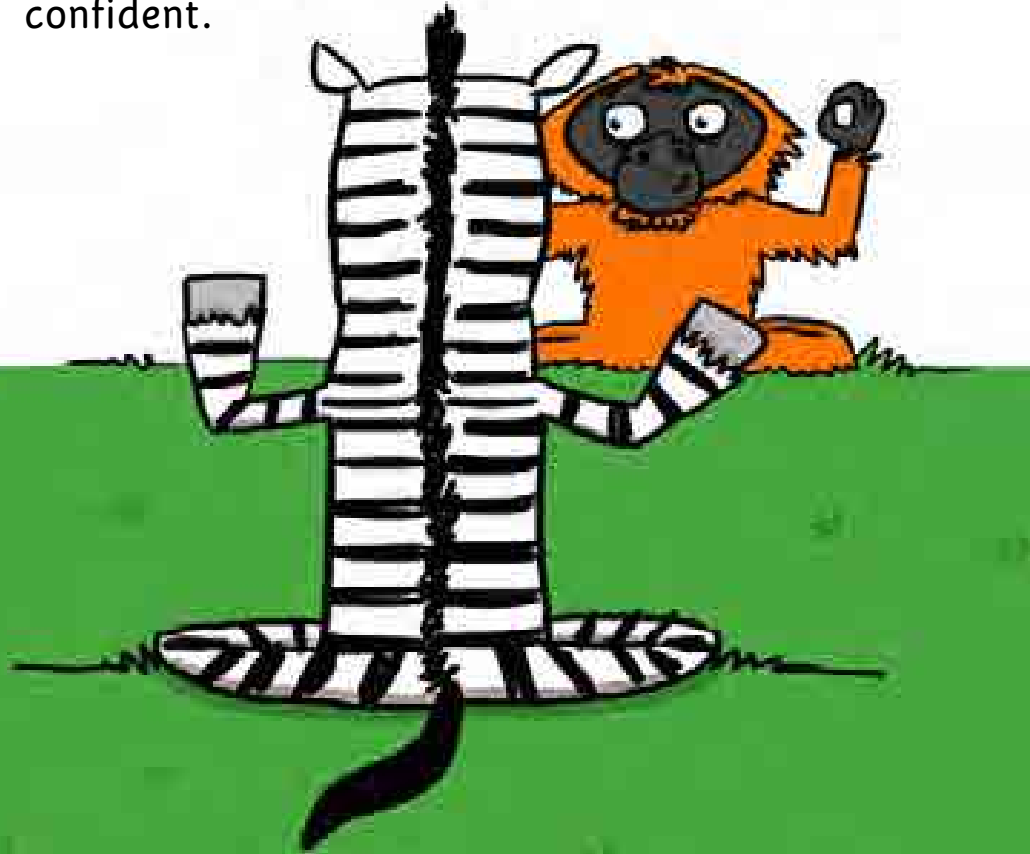
No More Drama

The Sun rose over the wide-open fields, miles beyond Ginger Zoo. The animals had travelled a long way overnight. It was a beautiful day to finally be free.

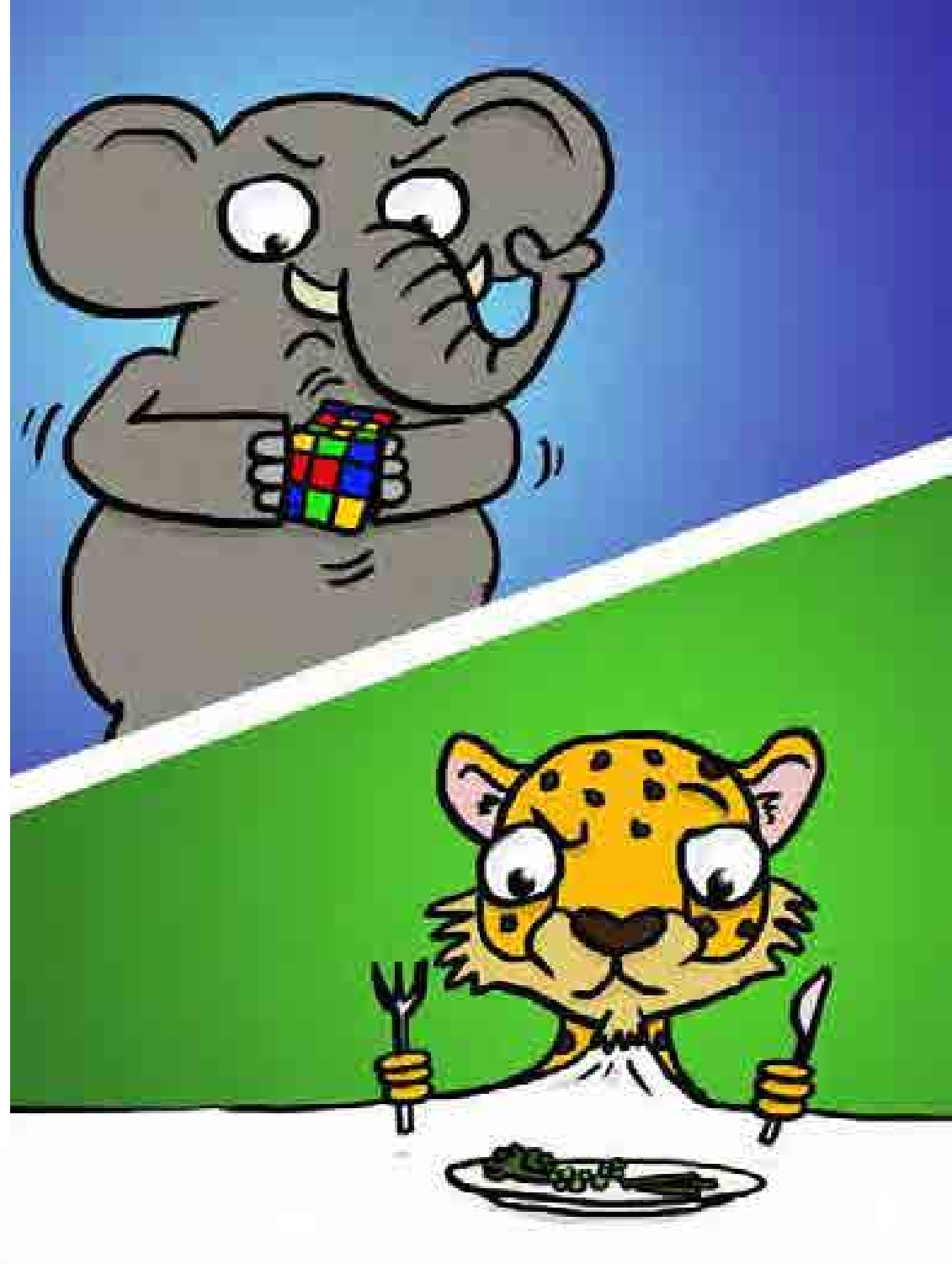


They had only been free for a day, but each of the animals had started to work on themselves.

Orangutan spent the morning learning yoga from Zebra. She hoped it would help her loosen up and be less bossy. She returned the favour by helping Zebra learn how to be more confident.



Camel made a list of jobs to stop himself from being lazy, while Elephant started doing some brain training in the hope that he'd never forget anything again. Cheetah even became a vegetarian.



Llama didn't need to do a single thing.

Llama had lost every last bit of rage. She never quite knew why she was so grumpy before. Maybe it was because everyone was always telling her to be calmer. It might have even been because she had never explored the wild before.

All she knew was the same thing that all the other animals knew. They were born to be free. Llama took a deep breath. The air of the open wilderness filled up her lungs and it felt great.

There was no more drama, just a much calmer Llama.



You've Got to Be Calmer, Llama!

1. Which animal was given the task to direct animal traffic?
2. Who held a yoga class for Llama?
3. What music does Llama prefer to listen to?
 - (a) Classical
 - (b) Pop
 - (c) Reggae
4. How did the animals get Llama to break down the gate?
5. Why do you think Llama kept feeling grumpy? Have you ever felt like Llama did?

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HERE ARE SOME COMMON WORDS THAT YOUR CHILD MIGHT FIND TRICKY:

water	where	would	know	thought	through	couldn't
laughed	eyes	once	we're	school	can't	our

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The Human Under My Bed and King for the Day

Level 11 – Lime

BookLife
The logo for BookLife Readers features the text "BookLife" in a small, black, sans-serif font above the word "Readers" in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. A small green heart is positioned to the left of the letter "e" in "Readers". Below the word "Readers" is a simple black line drawing of a smile.

Readers

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AUTHOR INSIGHT: **MIGNONNE GUNASEKARA**

Despite being BookLife Publishing's newest recruit, Mignonne Gunasekara has already written fourteen books about everything from starter science and disastrous deaths throughout history to dinosaurs. Born in Sri Lanka, Mignonne has always been drawn to stories, whether they are told through literature, film or music. After studying Biomedical Science at King's College London, Mignonne completed a short course in screenwriting at the National Centre for Writing in Norwich, during which she explored writing scripts for the different mediums of film, theatre and radio.

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The Human Under My Bed and King for the Day



Written by
Mignonne Gunasekara

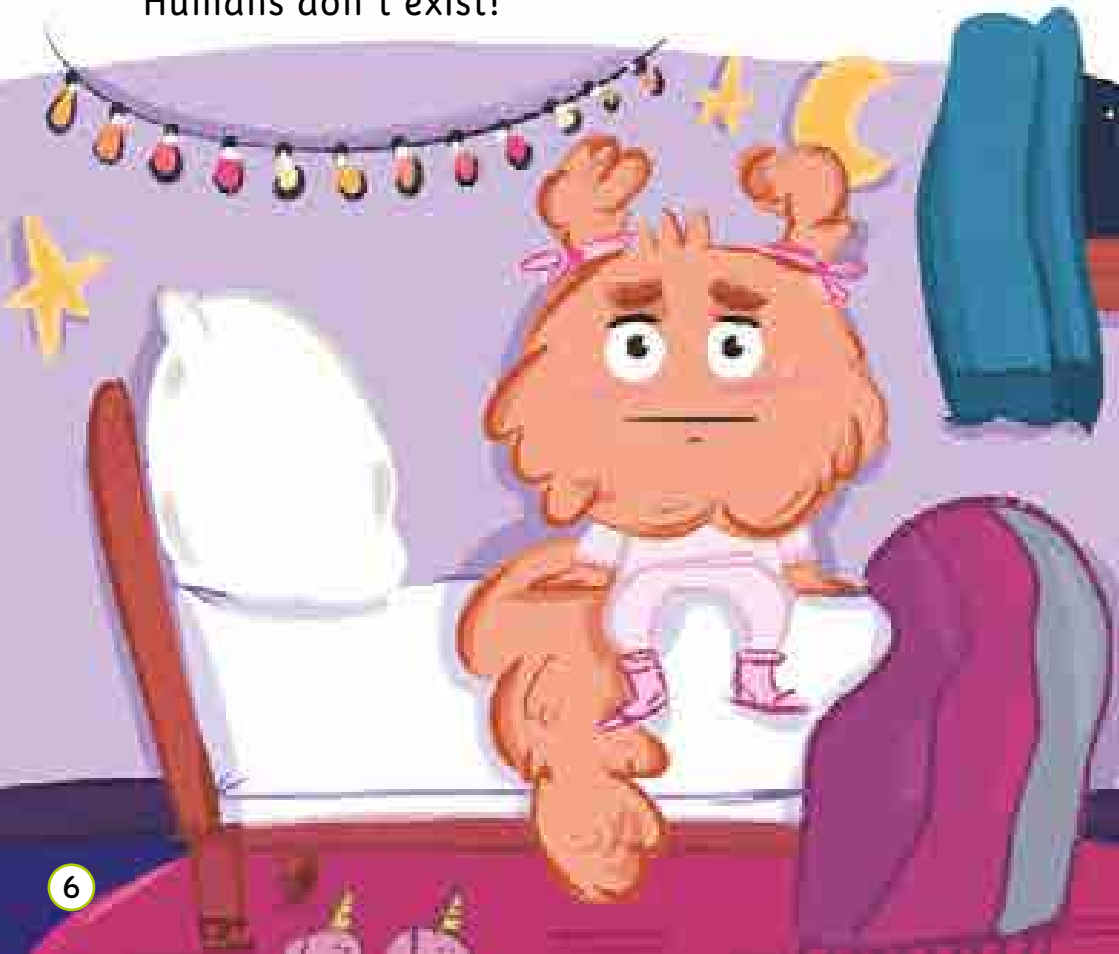
Illustrated by
Irene Renon

Chapter One

Myrtle was convinced that there was a human under her bed. She probably shouldn't have stayed up late to watch that scary film with her older cousins. She couldn't get the idea out of her head.

"Oh, sweetheart," said Mama Monster.

"Humans don't exist!"



It was no good. Myrtle wasn't listening. She was too busy squeezing glow sticks into her bookcase.

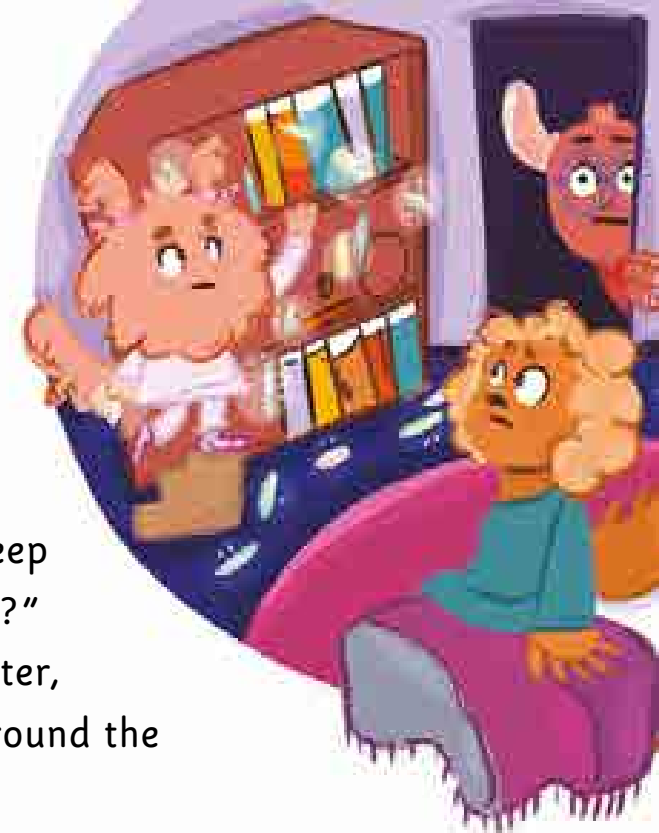
"How can you sleep with all this light?" asked Papa Monster, poking his head round the bedroom door.

"I can't sleep," said Myrtle. "But that's the plan."

She stepped back to admire her handiwork. Now she could finally climb into bed.

"There is absolutely nothing under your bed," said Mama. "We promise."

"There's nothing when you look now," said Myrtle. "But in the middle of the night – that's when they come out!"



"Please get some sleep tonight, Myrtle," said Mama. "It's been a week! You must be tired."
"A growing monster needs all the sleep she can get," said Papa sternly.

"The human won't be sleeping," muttered Myrtle as she pulled a head torch out from under her pillow. "So I can't sleep either."
"Oh, Myrtle," sighed Mama as she stood up.
"We'll see you in the morning," said Papa, kissing Myrtle's forehead. Mama kissed her next, and then the two of them backed out of the door.



Papa was about to pull the door shut when Myrtle called out.

"No," she said. "Leave it open!"

Papa hesitated but did as Myrtle asked. He then reached over to turn off Myrtle's bedroom light, but when he saw the look on Myrtle's face, he decided to leave it on.
"Thank you," said Myrtle.

Papa and Mama slowly turned and left, but Myrtle was still sat up in bed. She looped her head torch around her head and turned it on. With the glow sticks, head torch, and her light on, Myrtle's room was brightly lit.

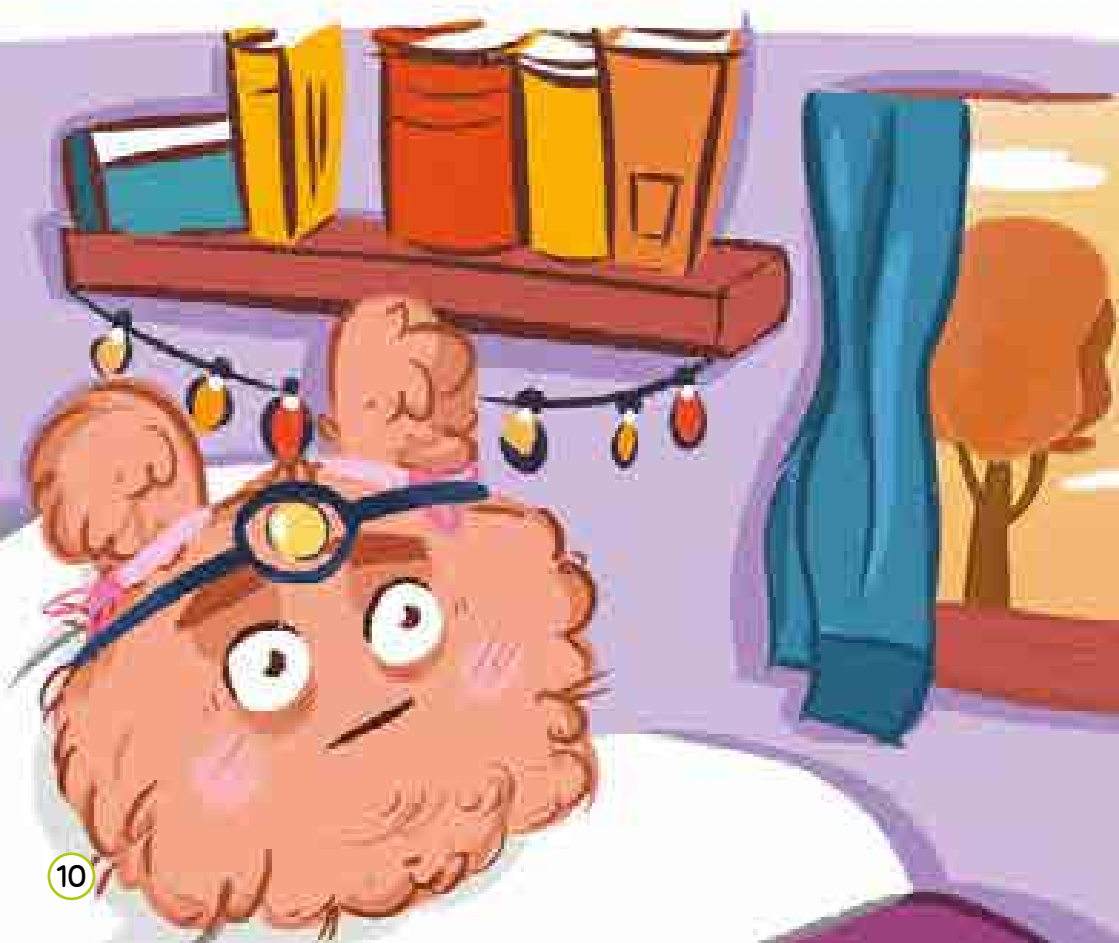
"No humans are going to get me tonight!" thought Myrtle.



Chapter Two

Before she knew it, it was morning and her eyes were starting to twitch. Every little noise in the night had made her jump and she was sick of it. She hadn't slept a wink! At school, Myrtle had bags under her eyes and staying awake in lessons had become a struggle.

She was super grumpy, and everything her teachers said went in one ear and straight out the other. She finally ended up nodding off in the middle of her history lesson. Her teacher didn't notice, but Myrtle was fed up. "Enough is enough!" she thought.



“I am going to have to take matters into my own hands and catch this human once and for all! Then I can finally get a good night’s sleep. But how can I do that?”

Just then, an idea popped into Myrtle’s head. She knew what she had to do.



Myrtle set to work the minute she got home from school. First stop was Papa’s shed, where she picked up a big bucket and some rope. Then she went to the kitchen, where she raided the snack cupboard for sweets. She had



heard that humans loved to eat sweets, so what better treat to use for her trap?



Myrtle was struggling to carry her trap materials upstairs when she dropped the bucket with a clang.

“Myrtle?” called Mama from the living room. “What are you doing?”

“Nothing!” yelled Myrtle. She knew her parents would think she was being silly. She would have to wait for them to fall asleep before she carried out her plan.



Myrtle shoved the bucket, rope and sweets into her wardrobe and sat back. She looked around her room for the last piece of her trap.

She needed something to prop up the bucket. Her eyes finally landed on her Spelling Wasp trophy.

"A-ha!" said Myrtle.

"That will do the trick!"



She was just about to pick the trophy up when she heard her parents laying the table in the dining room below her.

"Dinner's ready!" bellowed Papa from downstairs. Myrtle had been so busy preparing her trap that she had forgotten all about dinner.

"I'll be right back, human," thought Myrtle.

"Just you wait."

Chapter Three

At the dinner table, Mama and Papa watched as Myrtle ate her food as quickly as she possibly could. She was in a hurry to get back to her room. "Oh dear," whispered Mama, so that only Papa could hear.

"She's at breaking point," Papa whispered back. "All done!" declared Myrtle, holding up her empty plate.



"Oh," started Mama.

"Can I be excused, please?" asked Myrtle.

"I suppose s--"

"Thank you!" yelled Myrtle over her shoulder as she disappeared out through the dining room door.

"Also, I don't need tucking in tonight!"

"You don't?" asked Mama. "What about the humans?"

"I'm not worried about them anymore!" said Myrtle, her voice drifting in from the landing. The next thing Mama and Papa heard was Myrtle's bedroom door closing.

"Well," said Papa. "That wasn't weird at all."

"I hope she really means that," said Mama. "Because there is nothing under her bed!"



Back in her room, Myrtle was setting up her trap. She had tied the rope to the trophy and used it to prop the bucket up. She tossed a handful of sweets under the bucket, picked up the other end of the rope, and climbed into bed.

"And now, I wait," said Myrtle.



The hours ticked by, but there was no sign of the human.

“Come on...” mumbled Myrtle, as her eyelids grew heavier.

Her head started to droop closer to her pillow. She tried to fight it, but it wasn't long before she was fast asleep. All those sleepless nights had finally caught up with her.



Chapter Four

When Myrtle woke up, the sweets had disappeared from her trap, but there was no human in sight!

“That pesky human!” thought Myrtle. “It got away!”

She’d get it next time. She just had to stay awake long enough!



That night, Myrtle set her trap up again. And just as she’d done before, she climbed into bed and waited. But she wouldn’t fall asleep this time. She had a bag of spicy crisps with her, and every time she felt sleepy, she popped one in her mouth.



It got later and later, but nothing happened. "Not again," thought Myrtle.

She was nearly ready to give up when she heard a scuffling sound. The human was coming! She jumped up on her bed, held the rope tight and got ready to spring into action. The scuffling sound got louder and louder, until...

A dodo bird appeared from under Myrtle's bed! It scurried over to the sweets and started gobbling them up.



"There's no human after all!" exclaimed Myrtle. "It was just a silly dodo this whole time!"

Myrtle scooped it up and took it to her parents' room. They grumbled as Myrtle tried to wake them up. When they saw the dodo, they sat up straight in bed.

"What is that?" they gasped.

"The human under my bed!" said Myrtle.

"Can we keep it?"



The Human Under My Bed

1. What did Myrtle squeeze into her bookcase?
2. What lesson did Myrtle nod off in?
3. What did Myrtle take from Papa's shed?
 - (a) A big bucket and some rope
 - (b) A brush and dustpan
 - (c) A light bulb
4. Why did Myrtle eat spicy crisps?
5. How do you think Myrtle felt about there being a human under her bed? How would you feel if you thought something was under your bed?

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