

Standing on the steps of the spaceship were two aliens, one male, one female.

They had large, purple heads and thin, yellow bodies covered in fur.



“Unreal,” whispered Tom.

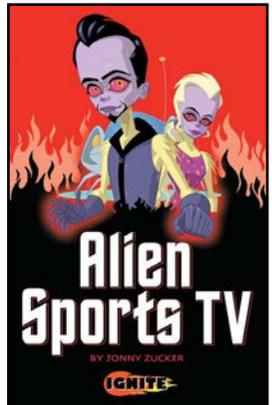
More and more people were arriving by the second.

By 7 p.m., there were hundreds of TV crews and newspaper people there.

At 7.15 p.m., the aliens suddenly held up their seven-fingered hands and the crowd went silent.

“Greetings!” announced the male alien, “My name is Fring.”

“And I’m Clob,” said the female one.



Linda, the area trainer, came round today. She was pleased that our garden has a good fence and that Mum is at home all day.

I really, really can't wait! I am going to keep this diary so I don't forget a thing.



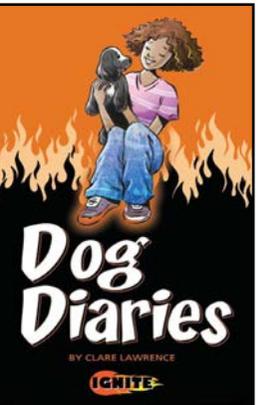
### **April 28th**

Linda called. We are going to be looking after a black spaniel pup called Kip! He is six weeks old now and will come to us at eight weeks. That's in just **TWO WEEKS' TIME!**

### **May 14th**

Kip comes today! I tried to get out of school so I could be here, but I didn't give Mum too much grief when she said no.

I'm trying really hard to keep my end of the bargain. Kip will be there when I get home...



Justine thought about all the confident people at her school. It made her feel... useless.

“You can bring Liam, if you don’t want to go on your own,” said David.

Liam was her best mate. He was a bit crazy, but she liked him.

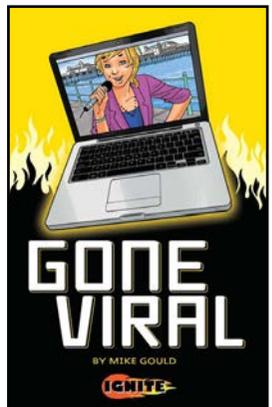
Perhaps it would be fun to go.

The talent show at the school was mostly full of people who couldn’t sing and couldn’t dance.

Liam said, “They’re useless! My granny sings better than all of them!”

Then a girl walked onto the stage. She said, “Hi, I’m Mia.”

Mia sat down at the piano and started to sing.



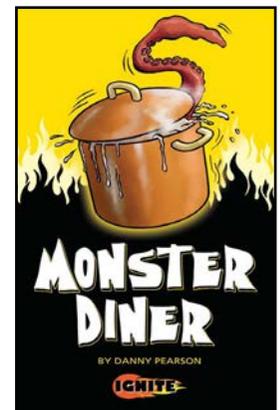
David could not see into the diner as it had blacked-out windows, and it looked as if you needed a pass to get through the front door.



He walked around the diner and knocked on the back door.

A small, strange-looking man opened up. "What do you want?" he asked.

The man looked out of breath and rushed off his feet.



Henry was the little boy next door to Lucy. A cute one-year-old. But Lucy's mum warned the girls about Mr and Mrs George.

"They're very fussy about their house," she said. "Don't make a mess and don't break anything!"

Lucy and Sophie knocked on Mr and Mrs George's house at eight. Sophie had brought a DVD with her. A horror called 'The Wolf Man'.

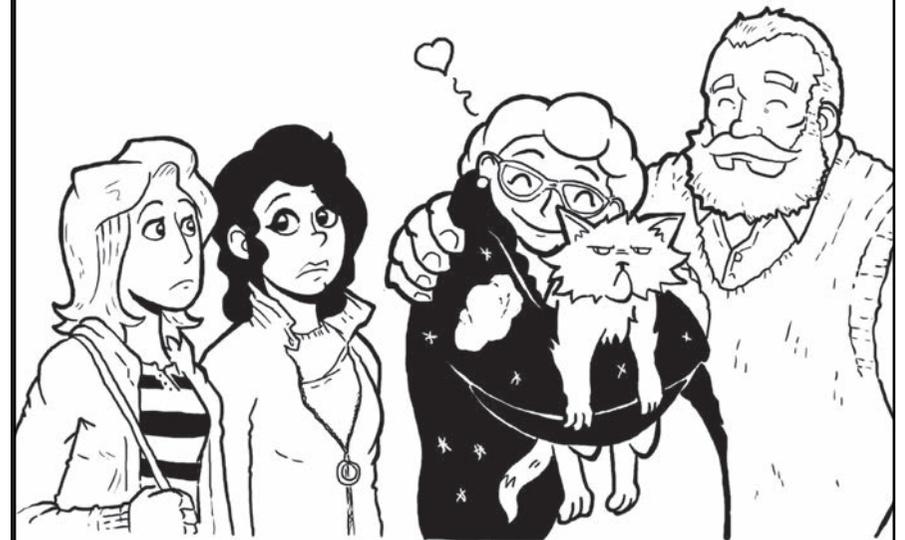
"Hello," said Mr George, who was a hairy-looking guy. "Little Henry is fast asleep. You'll have an easy job."

"We have a few rules," warned Mrs George. "Help yourself to food, but don't touch my cake. I've made it for a competition."

"And don't go near my model planes!" said Mr George, "Or my prize marrows."

Lucy looked at Sophie. Mum had been right.

"And be nice to Pongo," said Mrs George.



Craig shuddered. Not another project, he thought to himself. Some of Grandad's projects were a bit crazy.

But when Craig saw what Grandad had on his work bench he could not believe his eyes!

"I've been working on this for a while," Grandad babbled excitedly.



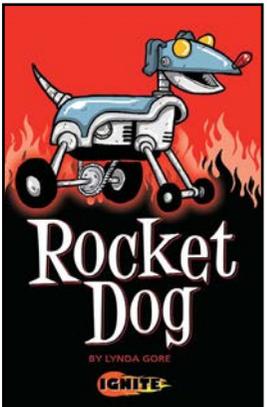
Craig looked at the machine, a long tubular body on four legs with wheels.

There was a long tail on one end and the other end had several wires hanging out.

"I'm building you a robot," explained Grandad. "But it needs a head."

"A robot dog!" beamed Craig. The grin on his face stretched from ear to ear.

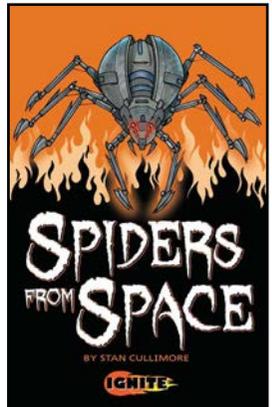
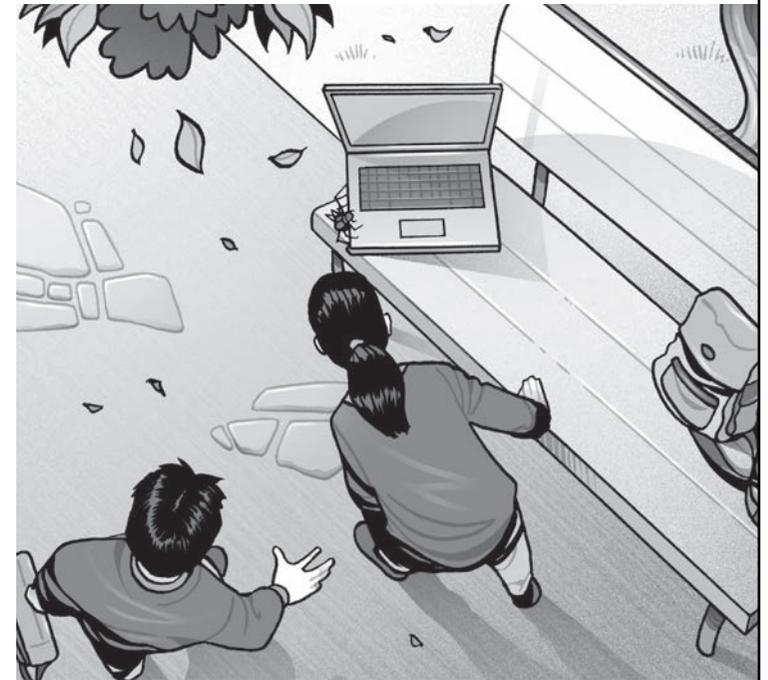
"This is the best kind of dog," Grandad laughed. "You don't have to feed it, and no mess!"





"It looks like it's trying to get inside your laptop," said Jill. "Why is it trying to do that?"

"I don't know, and I don't care," said Tony, dropping his bag. "I HATE spiders."



Sample pages taken from Ignite: Spiders from Space

**Monday February 21st, 5.30 p.m.**

Today I asked Coach Briggs if I could join the sports team. He didn't look impressed. "Try the javelin," he said.

I ran across the field. I ran so fast, I tripped and let go of the javelin.

It flew right past Coach Briggs's ear. "Try the discus," he said.

The discus was a disaster. "Swing it round and let go," said Coach Briggs.

I swung so much I got dizzy. I let go of the discus.

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"Duck!" shouted a voice. SMASH!  
The discus flew right through the science lab window.

Why can't I stay out of trouble?



7



“Huh!” replied Zak crossly. “But what about you on the Vortex roller coaster? It made all your hair stand up on end. You looked really weird!”



Anna sighed. Zak was right. She had looked weird, but she was not going to admit it.

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“Well, at least I didn’t feel sick on the Zizzler Twister,” she replied. “I wanted to go on that ride again.”

“That’s not fair,” said Zak. “The Twister didn’t make me feel sick.”

Anna raised her eyebrows. “Oh, really? What was it then?”

“It was the candy floss, the two hot dogs and the ice cream with fudge topping I ate for lunch.”

“I told you not to have the fudge topping,” said Anna. “But did you listen? No, you did not!”

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“Don’t panic!” Mick said, “I’ll phone Gran.”

Mick pulled his mobile out of his pocket. Jen could see his face in the light from his phone.

“What’s the matter?” she asked.

“I don’t know what to do,” he wailed.  
“There’s no signal. The phone’s dead!”



## Chapter 2

### Never again!

“Give me the phone,” said Jen.

“I told you. There’s no signal,” said Mick.

“I know,” she said, “but I need the light to find something.”

Jen shone the light around the lift.  
“There it is!” she said.

In the dim light from the phone, she read a notice.

