The film was very scary and both girls were watching it from behind their pillows.

The main hero of the film was in a dark room. He could hear a strange sound coming from behind a door. He reached out to open the door when...

"ARGHHHHHH!" Ruth and Laura screamed.



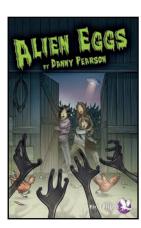
Laura's little brother had come bursting through the bedroom door just as one of the aliens jumped out of the shadows in the film.

"Get out, get out!" Laura screamed.
"Mum! Josh is in my room again!"

"Josh, get out of your sister's room and leave them to watch their film in peace," Laura's mum shouted.

Laura chased Josh down the stairs, hitting him with her pillow.

Ruth paused the film and waited for her to get back.



"Hold on tight!" said Mike. "We've been hit!"

"I'll go and check for damage," said Jan.

"No!" said Mike. "Don't go outside. It might be pirates."

"Space pirates!" said Lucy. "What would space pirates want with a small spaceship like this?"



6

"If it's Zanna and her pirates," said Mike, "it's us she wants, not the ship. She will keep people prisoner until a ransom is paid."





Each week, the comic was about a new monster.

Everyone at school loved the comic.

This week's monster was called the Glob.

Ned had just finished the Glob stories.

"He's big, green and slimy," said Ned.



Carol liked the story.

She started work on the front cover.

But soon she was thirsty. "Let's go and have a drink. Then I will finish the front cover," she said.

As they left Ned's room they heard a growl behind them.





Not that Josh's family were rich.

That was the problem – they weren't.

He had passed a special test to get in for free.

Josh wanted to go to the same school as his friends. But Mum and Dad thought it would be great for him to go to Hodge Manor.

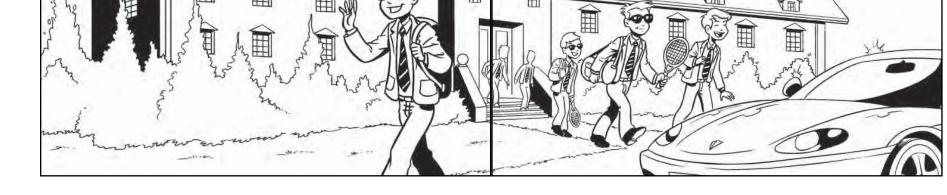
It was one of the best schools around.

The problem was everyone that went there was rich. Really rich.

He watched them get dropped off in their parents' sports cars.

They had expensive clothes and new tennis rackets. And amazing, super-smart phones.





One Monday morning, Keesha and Carl were in school when they were called out of class.

They were told to go to the school office.



Their Mum was there waiting for them. She looked as if she had been crying.

"What is the matter?" asked Keesha.

"There has been an accident at the mine," she told them.

"NO!" cried Carl.





Maz saw the minibus driving away without him.

"Wait!" he yelled.

But Mr Jones couldn't hear him.



Chapter 2

A Second Chance



Maz sat on a bench in the park.

He felt really sorry for himself.

"It's not fair!" said Maz. "Why am I always late?"

"I couldn't help overhearing you," said a stranger. "I used to be like you always late, but then I started using this watch. It's called a Sidewinder. I don't need it any more. You can have it. By the way, don't press the button on the left hand side."



"It doesn't matter," said Evan's friend Lewis.

Evan knew that Lewis was saying it to be nice.

He just hoped Mr Smith wouldn't make him try again.

It was the same in maths: the numbers seemed to shuffle about when Evan wasn't looking.



His teacher helped him by giving him lined paper to write on, but he was still the last in the class.

Reading was worse. Just picking up a book made Evan feel stupid.

Other kids turned the pages so fast it was like a blur.

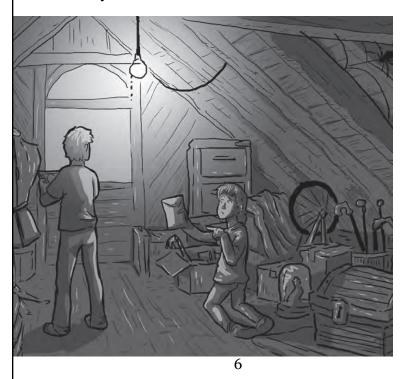
"I hate being last at everything," he said to his Mum. "It doesn't matter how hard I try, I'm always last."





They go up to the attic. It is dusty and full of junk. They find a big brown envelope in a box.

The words "My Last Invention" are written on it. "Let's show this to Nan," says Eve.



Nan is in the kitchen.

"Look at this," says Finn.

Nan smiles. "That is your Great Uncle Harry's writing," she says.

Eve and Finn are puzzled. "Who is Great Uncle Harry?" asks Eve.





Jake sat down at his desk. A lady was standing in the classroom.

"My name is Miss Walker," said the lady. "I am your new teacher."

"Hello, Miss Walker," said Jake.

"Hello, Jake," said Miss Walker.

"How did you know my name?" asked Jake.

Miss Walker smiled. "I have super powers, Jake."



Later that day Millie and Jake went to the shops.

"I am going to buy an ice cream," said Jake. "Would you like one, Millie?"

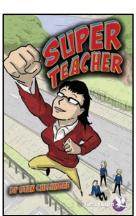
"Yes, please." Millie turned round. She smiled. She pointed at a lady who was in a shop. "Is that Miss Walker?" she asked.

Jake looked over. "Yes, that is her."

Suddenly a voice cried out.

"Help!"

Jake turned and saw a little boy.



Kevin, Stacey and the rest of the class got out their History text books, but Mr Blast shook his head. "You will not need any text books today," he told them. "I believe you should learn History first hand. So you will just need a sketch pad and a pen."

"Are we going to a museum?" asked Stacey.

"We are going somewhere far more exciting than a museum," grinned Mr Blast. "Can you please come and sit on the carpet?"



Everyone left their tables and sat on the carpet. It was thick and very comfortable.

Mr Blast threw a window open.

"What are you doing?" asked Stacey.

But Mr Blast did not answer.

Instead, he came to sit on the carpet.

"Everyone ready?" he called.

"For what?" cried the class.

Mr Blast tapped his pen three times on the carpet. For a few seconds nothing happened. But then the carpet rose into the air.

