

## 1. IN THE ZONE

Basketball is the top indoor sport in the world.

Players must focus every second they are on court. You're 'in the zone', totally at one with the game, or you're nowhere.

Picture a top basketball match. The indoor stadium is packed with noisy fans. On the brightly lit court, two teams play for glory.

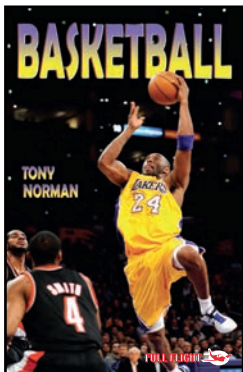
There are ten players on court (five from each team). They pass the ball with skill and pace. Everyone is thinking fast and working for their team. There are seconds to play and the scores are even. The coaches prowl the side of the court like caged animals. Then one leaps into the air.

4

A power play from the team has ended with a shot on target. The ball spins round the hoop and falls into the basket. It's a last second winner. The crowd go wild.

This is the exciting world of basketball.

## WELCOME TO LIFE IN THE ZONE



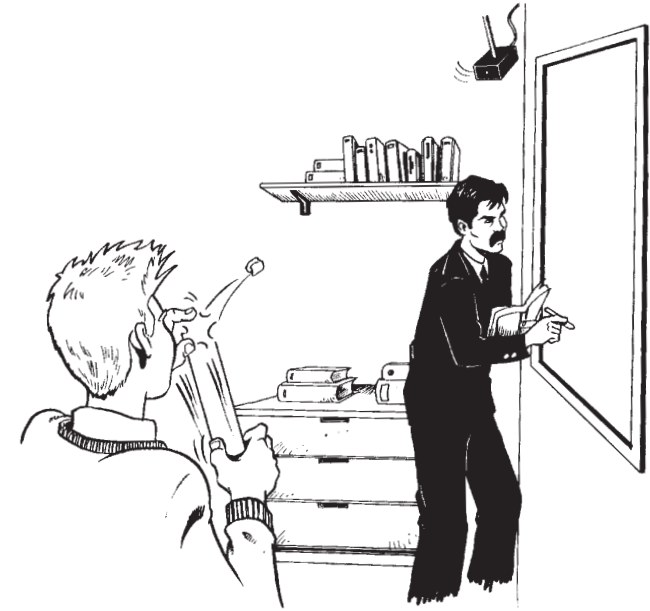
## Chapter 1 – Detention

Weird things had been happening at Lee's school since the start of term. First, mirrors had appeared everywhere. When Lee looked into them, he got the feeling that someone was looking back.

Then there was that strange sound he kept hearing in the classroom. It sounded like a camera turning to watch you.

When Lee heard it one day after morning break, he said to the others, "See! That thing in the corner. It's a camera, I'm sure of it."

4



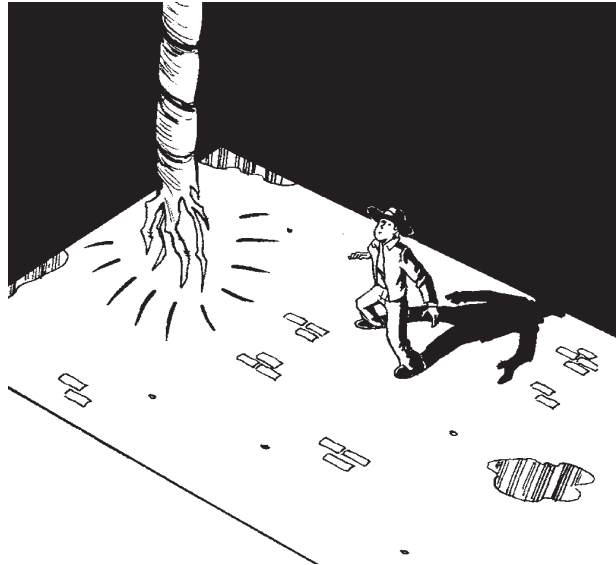
Lee flicked a ball of paper across the room with his ruler. The black box moved, like a head turning to watch.

"Stop messing about, Lee," Mr Baxter said. He was writing on the board. He didn't need a camera. He had eyes in the back of his head.

5



2. You should have thought harder about the riddle! The rope is weak. You are over halfway down. It begins to break – strand by strand!



You just reach the bottom as the last strand breaks. You are in a dungeon – with no way out!

Try again?

GO TO 1

3. You are in an underground room. A shaft with a metal ladder in it goes up and down. One way, a tunnel is covered with bright stones. The other way, you see a skeleton. A bony finger is pointing along the tunnel.



Where will you go?

Up the ladder?

GO TO 37

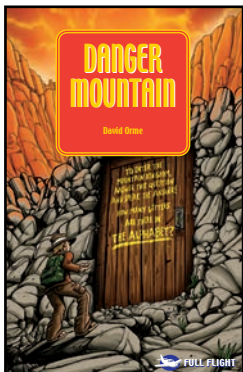
Down the ladder?

GO TO 23

Along the tunnel with bright stones?

GO TO 20

The way the skeleton points? GO TO 9



*The two boys look at each other and then walk off.*

**Rob** (Hisses) I've got an idea.  
Let's go round behind those bushes. Then we can come back and sneak up on the girls.

**Nick** (Quietly) And give them a fright. Nice one. That will teach them not to laugh at us!

**Rob** Yes!

*The two boys go behind some bushes. When they are out of sight, they turn round. Then they head back towards the girls. Sid is poking around in a hole under a big bush. Rob and Nick almost trip over him.*



**Sid** Careful!

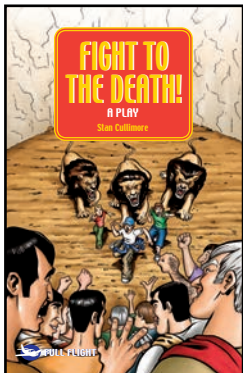
**Nick** What are you doing, Sid?

**Sid** Look what I've found in the ground. It's amazing!

**Nick** What is it?

**Sid** It looks like a really old wine glass.

*Rob grabs the glass and stares at it.*



## Chapter 1 – Fire

Paul hadn't really wanted to join  
Howie's gang.

His best mate Nat had told him to steer  
well clear.

"Howie's trouble," Nat warned him.  
"It's not worth it."

But Howie had been on at Paul for  
weeks.

Howie who ruled the playground with  
his bunch of cronies.

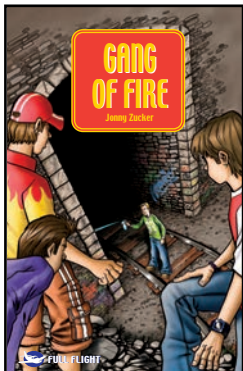
Howie with his razor-sharp  
stares.

Howie the loudmouth, whose favourite  
line was, 'Who's scared now?'



On their way home from school one  
day, Paul told Nat.

"I'm joining up," he said as they walked  
down the high street. "I've got three tasks  
to do if I want to make it into the gang."



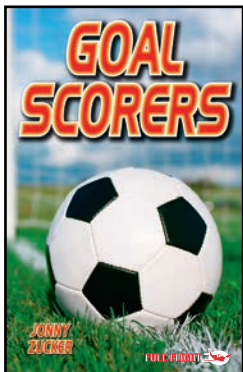


## ***I. THE GOAL SCORER'S KIT***

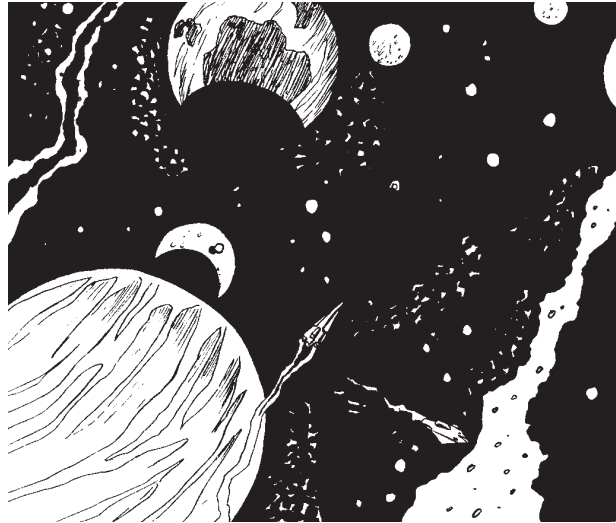
Whether you're a playground star or Lionel Messi, a goal scorer needs to wear standard football kit – a shirt, shorts, football socks and shin pads.

To score great goals, you must be wearing the right footwear. Comfort is the key. For playing on concrete or astro-turf, a lightweight trainer that feels good is right. For playing on grass, football boots are a must.

Many teams now ban metal studs because of the injuries they can cause. So it's worth checking out what your school or club says before you buy. Some boots have moulded studs. Others have studs that can be taken off, cleaned and put back.



## Chapter 1 - The Terrible Price



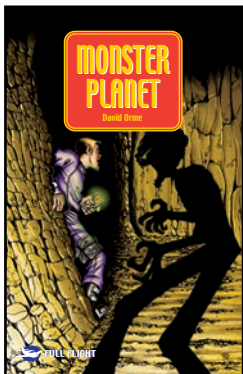
“It is time. We must choose the ones that are to die.”

The leaders of planet Atten sat silently. Everyone was angry, but what could they do? Twenty years ago, they had been beaten in a terrible space war.

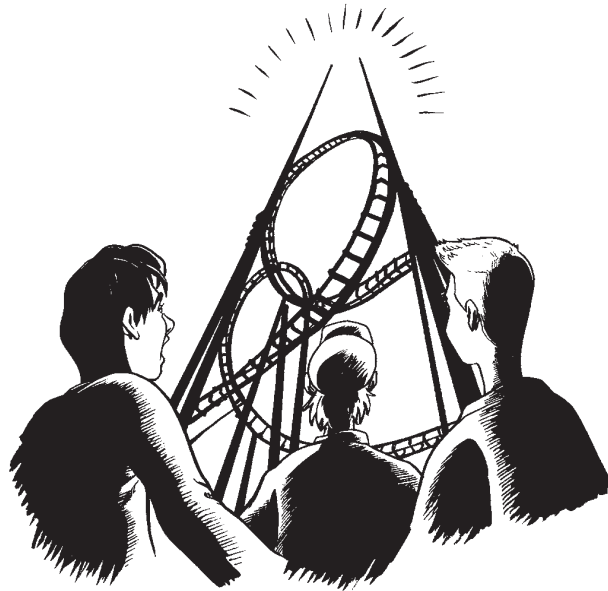
Their enemy, Minus, evil ruler of the space empire, made them pay a terrible price. Every three years, seven young men and seven young women were sent to Minus’s home planet of Kri 10. Their fate was terrible!

Deep below Minus’s palace, there was a maze. Anyone thrown into the maze would never come out again. And in the maze lived... a monster!

Many years before, an evil scientist had made this monster, and he named it Asteron. Half human, half alien, it lived on the blood of those who were lost in the maze. The name of Asteron was feared throughout the universe!



## Chapter 1 - No Go



There it was. A crazy great loop of steel. In the middle was a giant wheel. It stood between two steel spikes.

“Mega or what?” Gus said.

“Wicked,” Ricky and Sam agreed.

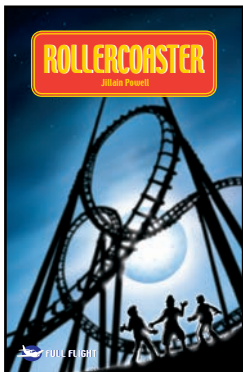
Gus read the advert. “Zero to seventy five miles per hour in two seconds. Trains spin 360 degrees.”

“It’s loaded with g-forces,” Ricky said. “It’s based on stuff they did for the Space Shuttle at NASA.”

“The g-force is so strong you nearly black out in the back seats,” Gus told them.

“I heard it’s like flying in an F16 fighter jet,” Sam said. The three of them stood looking up at the steel monster. Then they looked at each other.

“Ready?” Gus said. They joined the line waiting for a ride on the Devil Dipper.





## Why?

Why walk when you can run?

Why talk when you can shout?

Why pass when you can shoot?

Why wait in line when you can push to the front?

Why do your homework when you can watch telly?

Why go round the puddle when you can  
jump right in it?

Why eat slowly when you can gobble it down?

Why go to bed when you can stay up and play?

Why eat vegetables when you can have sweets?

Why save your pocket money when you can spend it?

Why say 'please' and 'thank you' when you can  
say 'yes' and 'no'?

*Why?*

Because adults have to have something to  
say to children.

*Ivor Baddiel*

## Computer Program to Turn Yourself into a Mermaid

Load Mirror.

Select Feet.

Ignore Error.

Press Delete.

Find Tail,

Copy, Paste.

Drag hair

Past waist.

Press Yes.

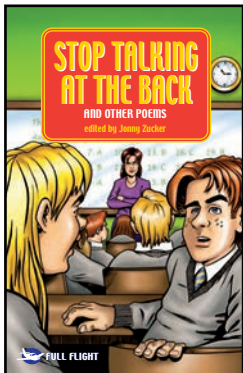
Program Saves

One mermaid.

Enter waves.



*Celia Warren*



## Chapter 1 - Number 46



January 1941. The middle of the Blitz.  
German planes had been bombing  
London for weeks.

Ned and Harry Jennings were running  
down Willow Street kicking a football.  
Their house, number 27, was OK but  
many of the houses on the street had  
been smashed to bits.

Most of their friends had been  
evacuated to families in the country,  
but some hadn't been so lucky.

Like their best mate Charlie Smith from  
number 33. He had died three months  
ago, along with all of his family when a  
German bomb hit their house.

A family hadn't been found yet for Ned  
and Harry, so they were still in London.

Waiting.

They stopped outside number 46  
Willow Street.

The top half of the house had been  
blasted off, so it just stood there.

Half a house.

