

**About the Author**

Danny Pearson is both a writer and editor of children's books. His other Badger titles are 'Beekeeper' and 'Alien Eggs'.

**Genre**

*3Dee* is an action story with a fantasy (magical) twist.

**Summary**

Dee works in a film rental store. When an old man tries to return a video tape she tells him rudely he will have to pay a large fine. He refuses but leaves the tape with his membership card.

Dee plays the tape. At first it seems to be blank but then there is an image of the old man smiling. Outside Dee hears screams. A Godzilla-type monster is tearing up the city, followed by aliens intent on destruction. She is saved by Arnold Van Damme, the Hollywood actor who insists he is Max Atom, action hero.

Dee realises that the old man is at the root of this. She tracks him down. He says it's really her fault because she was so rude to him. Max forces him to tell them how to put things right. All they have to do is rewind the video tape. Dee is hailed as a hero.

**Book Introduction**

- What can children predict about the story by looking at the cover?
- What do you think the title might mean? (If necessary prompt the answer 3D.)
- What does 'three dimensional' mean?
- How does this change what you think might happen in the story?
- Work out what genre this might be?

**New vocabulary**

In addition to the vocabulary provided on page 4, here are some technical words and phrases in the order they appear in the story:

- P7 fine
- P9 weird (note e before i spelling)
- P12 glimpses
- P26 rewind

## Group work

### Discussion points

- How many different monsters or baddies did you spot? [*Godzilla/giant dinosaur, aliens, alien robot and the old man.*]
- Who does the author want you to think of when he mentions Arnold Van Damme? [*Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jean-Claude Van Damme.*]
- What is your favourite part of the story?
- What do you think is the author's view of bad manners?

### Pair work

- List three of your favourite monsters or baddies that the author could have included in the story.
- **Which films do you think the author was thinking about when he wrote this book?** [*Maybe: Godzilla, Independence Day, The Terminator, The Iron Giant, War of the Worlds, Jurassic Park...*]

### Individual work

Think of another possible fun name for Arnold Van Damme.

Think of a good 'baddy' name for the old man.

## Y4, Strand 7

*Deduce characters' reasons for behaviour from their actions.*

- Why is Dee so rude?
- What are the consequences of her rudeness?
- Does she feel guilty?
- Why does she go back to the film store even though it's dangerous to do so?
- Do you think she will show better manners in future?

### Using the CD

Write a thought bubble for the illustration of the old man on page 9.

Write a thought bubble *and* a caption for the illustration on page 11.

*Or*

Rewrite Chapter 4 from Max's point of view.

## Copymasters

A: Author's Viewpoint

Children answer questions about the author's comments.

**List the other plays on words in the book.**

B: Max Atom

Children write a sequel involving Max Atom and the evil film maker.

**What if the evil film maker proves to Max Atom that he's really an actor and not an action hero at all?**

### Extension 1 (literacy)

A proverb is a short saying that is traditional but has some truth in it, too. For example: An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

This is a traditional saying but we now know that apples contain lots of vitamin C which helps us to stay healthy.

Make up a proverb for Dee. For example: A thank you a day keeps the monsters away.

**Make up a proverb for the chief baddy. For example: A monster a day helps me work, rest and play.**

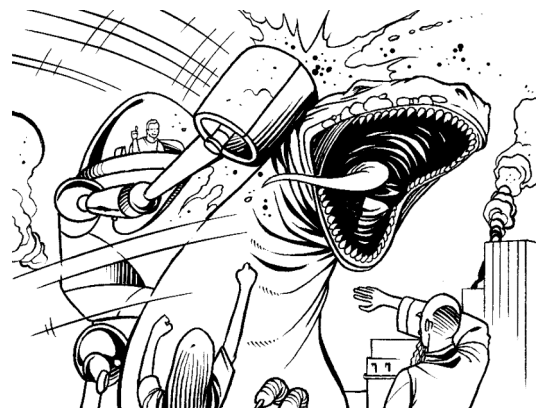
### Extension 2 (cross curricular)

What was the first 3D feature film ever shown to a paying audience?  
[Answer: 'The Power of Love' in 1922.]

How do 3D films work? Write an explanation in less than 60 words. These websites should help:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3-D\\_film](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3-D_film)

[www.physics.org/article-questions.asp?id=56](http://www.physics.org/article-questions.asp?id=56)



## Author's Viewpoint

I love watching films about everything and anything, but I especially like films with action heroes and aliens/monsters in them.

This story started with its title. After watching a 3D film at the cinema I thought how great it would be if we didn't need to wear those silly glasses. After that I thought it would be good to have a girl as the main character in my story. Then it hit me that her name should be Dee.

I think this play on words works well. This together with the amazing illustrations have all combined into (what I think is) a great book.

*Danny Pearson*

### Questions

Q What are the 'silly glasses' that the author mentions? .....

.....

Q Why do you think he wanted a girl as the main character? .....

.....

Q How did the author choose her name? .....

.....

Q Are you surprised that the author started with the title?

Yes/ No. Why? .....

.....

Q The author says he likes a play on words? Can you spot the play on words on page 20? Clue: it's a line from a famous film: which one?

.....

Q Why do you think the author chose the name 'Max Atom'?

.....



Q Do you agree with the author's comments about the illustrations?

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.....

Q The author does not describe Dee. Why do you think the illustrator drew her like this? Is there anything you might change?

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