



PLUNKETT STREET SCHOOL

Facing Fears



by Lisa Thompson
illustrated by Cliff Watt



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Plunkett Street Blue Set *Facing Fears*

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Illustrated by Cliff Watt

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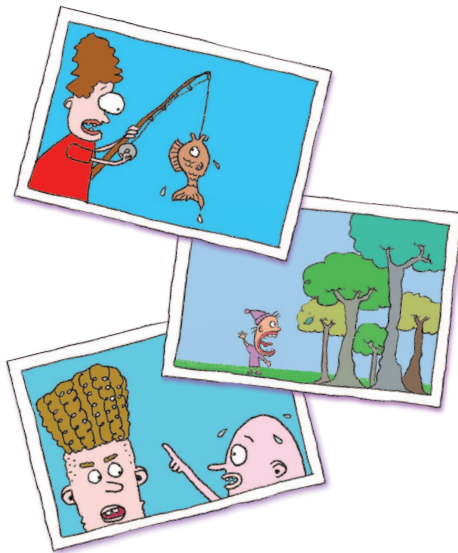
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Facing Fears

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Blake
EDUCATION
Better ways to learn

Characters



Back row (left to right):

Miss Fazio, Mr Zapple

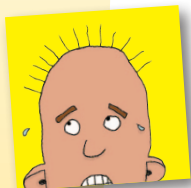
Middle row (left to right):

Brooke, Beatrice, Heeni, Ruby, Holly, Ming

Front row (left to right):

Miles, Leon, Bruno, Nelson, Rahib

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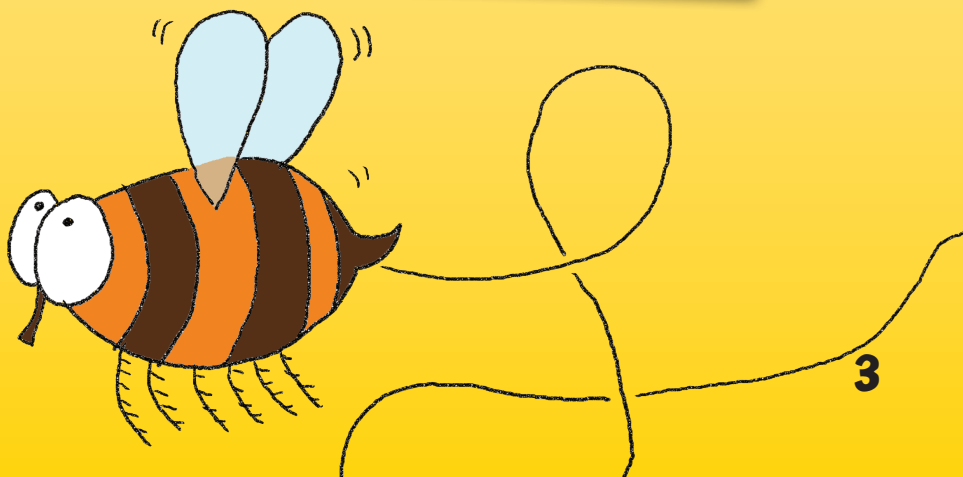
Chapter 3

Swing and Smile 14



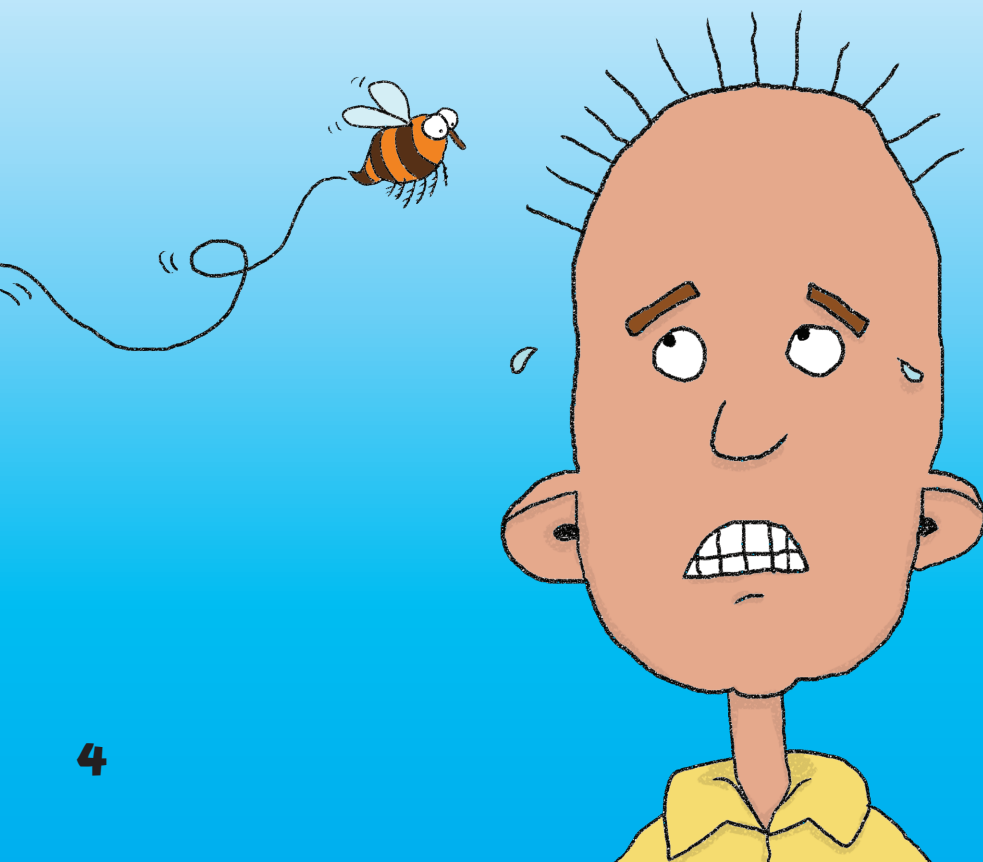
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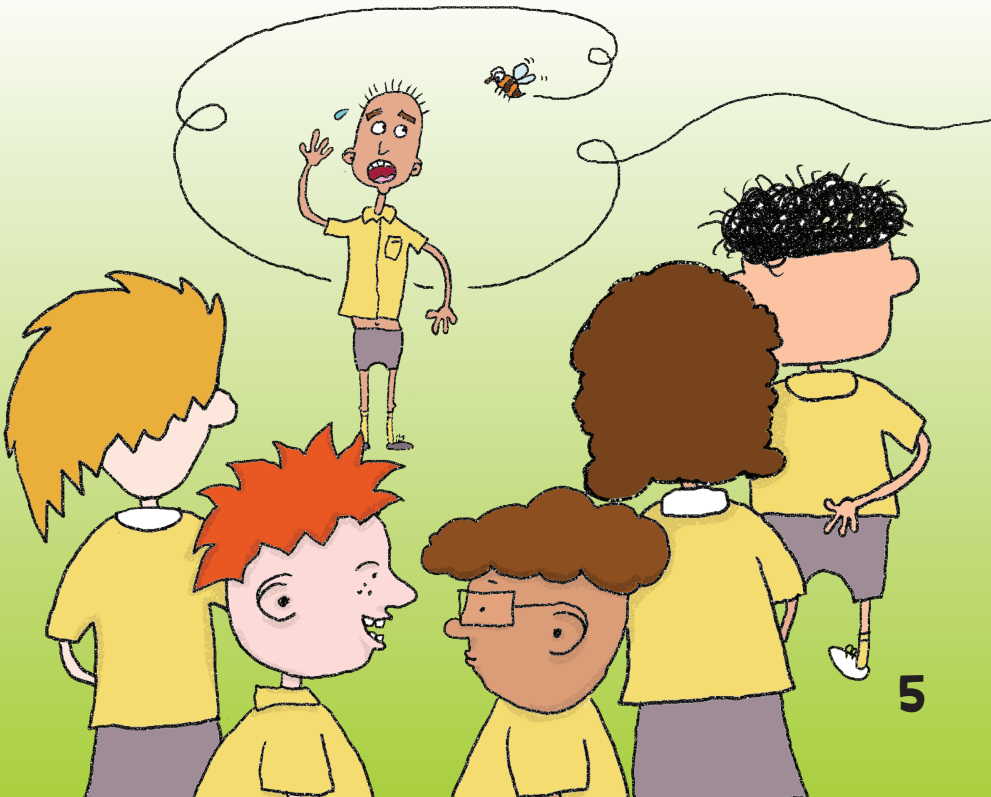
What's the Buzz?

Bruno stood frozen in the playground.
A bee buzzed around and around him.
Buzzzzzzzzzz buzz buzzzzzzzzzz.
Only Bruno's eyes moved, watching
the bee.



If there was one thing Bruno was afraid of, it was bees. Leon saw Bruno standing like a statue. He called to Miles. Leon and Miles knew about Bruno's fear. They watched Bruno and the bee. Beatrice and Brooke joined them. So did Heeni, Ruby and Holly.

"What's everyone looking at?" asked Nelson, joining the crowd.



"Bruno has a bee buzzing around him,"
whispered Ruby.

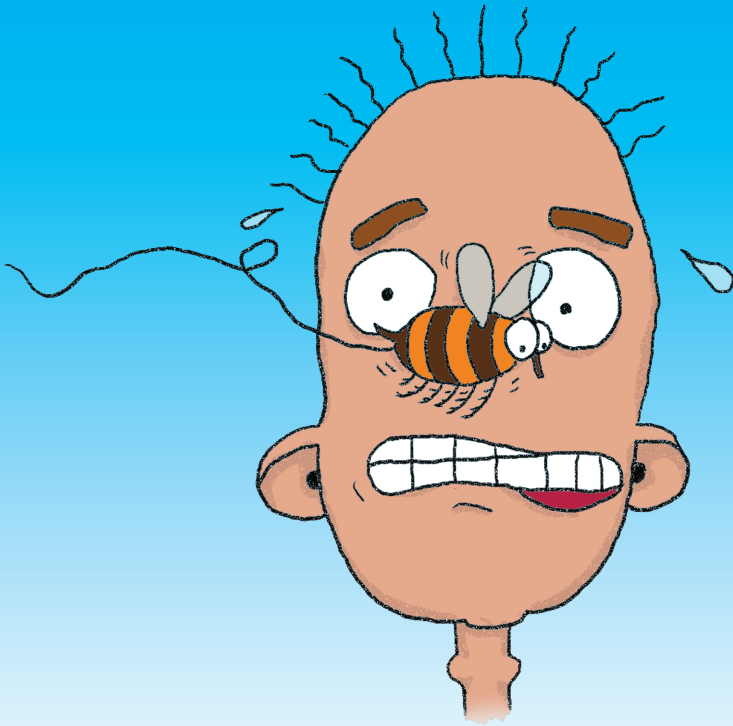
"So?" snorted Nelson. "It's just a bee."

"Bruno is afraid of bees," said Miles.
Nelson laughed so hard it hurt his
stomach.

"Shhhhhh!" said Ruby. "You'll make the
bee angry!"

Nelson rolled his eyes. "Has anyone
noticed how big Bruno is and how small
that bee is?"





No-one was listening to Nelson. Everyone was staring at Bruno and the bee. The bee weaved about, like it was studying Bruno. It got so close that Bruno could see the hairs on its legs. The bee stopped right before Bruno's eyes. Bruno's eyes were wide with fear. His heart was racing. The bee landed on Bruno's nose.

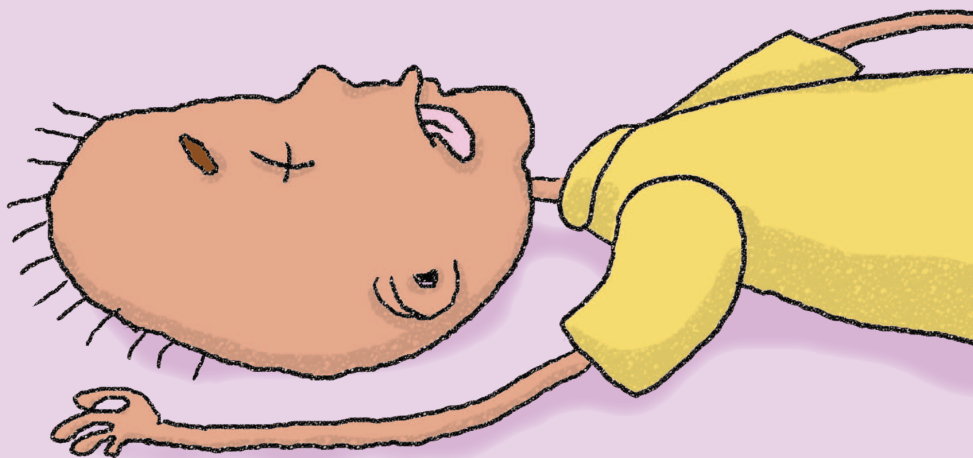
Bruno fainted.

Chapter 2

Miss Fazio Rescues

When Bruno woke, the bee was gone. Instead, 11 heads were hovering above Bruno, trying to get a good look at him. One of the heads belonged to Miss Fazio.

"He's awake," she declared. "Give him some room." Miss Fazio helped Bruno to his feet.

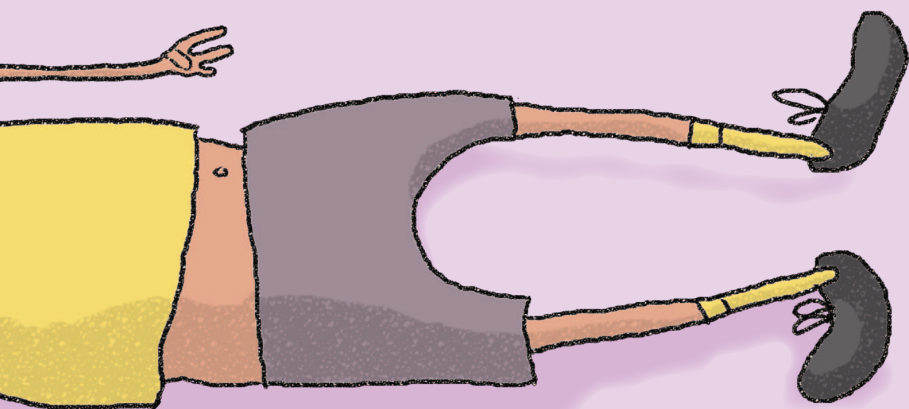


Bruno felt his nose. "It didn't sting me!" he said, amazed.

"Maybe the bee was scared of you," said Holly.

"Nah," said Nelson, "I bet it's gone back to tell the other bees at the hive how sweet you smell. Soon it will be back with its friends, hunting for you."

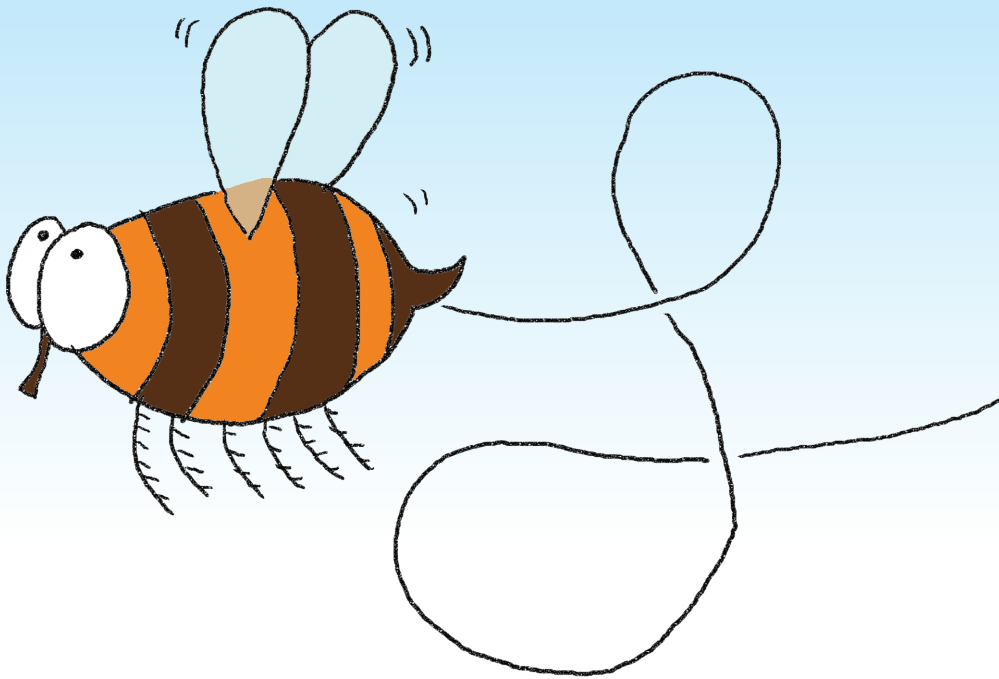
Bruno's legs went wobbly.



"That's enough, Nelson," said Miss Fazio.
"Bruno, you are fine. The bee has gone,
and I'm sure it will not be back. There's
no need to be afraid of bees. They're
wonderful creatures."

"They sting," reminded Bruno.

"That one didn't," said Ruby.



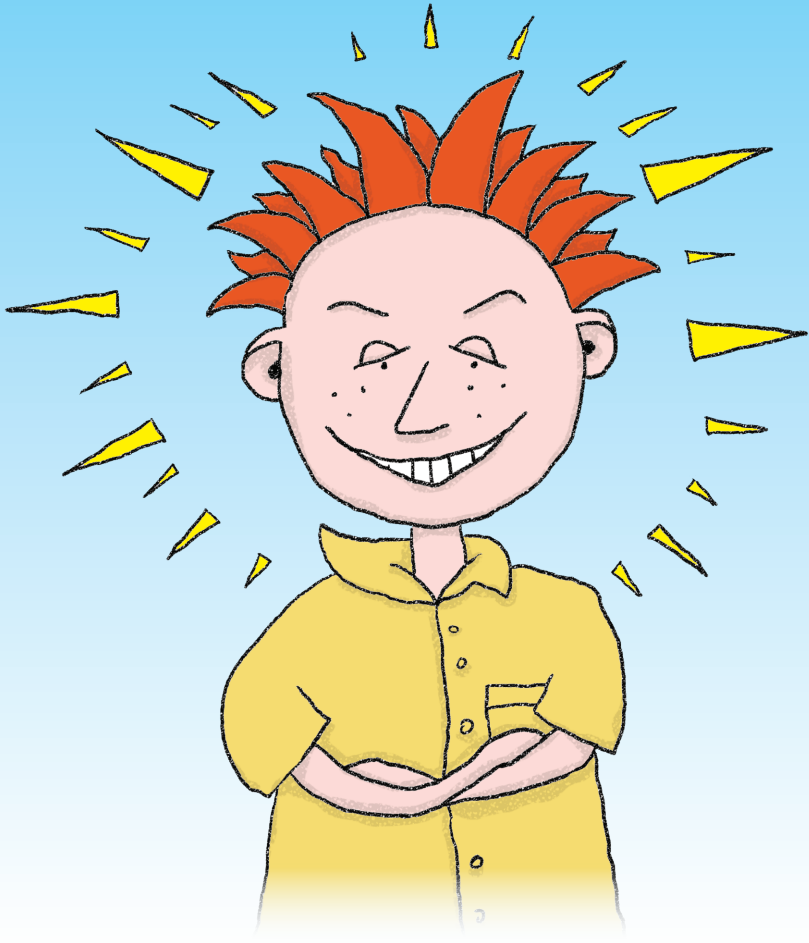
"Not all bees sting," said Miss Fazio, "and a bee will only sting you if it feels in danger. Perhaps you should learn more about bees, Bruno, and then you won't be afraid of them anymore."

"My dad says it's important to face your fears," said Rahib.

"Very true," said Miss Fazio.

"He always says it before we visit Nanna," Rahib continued.





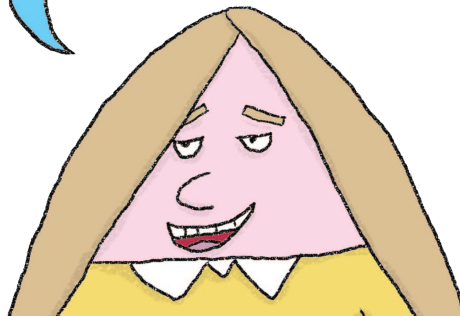
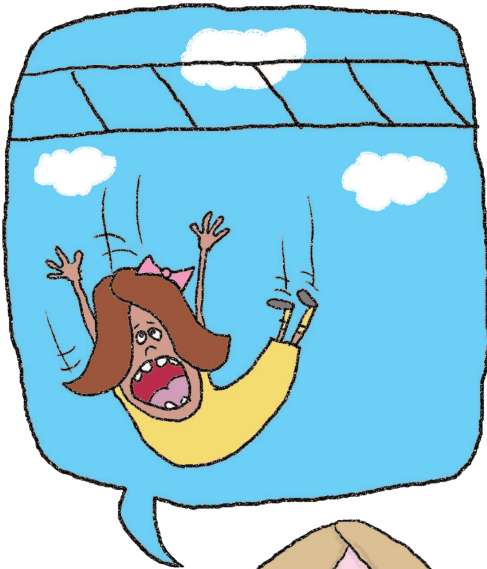
"I'm not afraid of anything," boasted Nelson.

"Everyone is afraid of something," said Miss Fazio. Nelson folded his arms and shook his head.

"Brooke has been afraid of the monkey bars since she fell off," giggled Beatrice.

"You said you wouldn't tell!" squealed Brooke, tears welling in her eyes.

"Afraid of the monkey bars?" said Miss Fazio. "We can't have that. To the monkey bars, everyone!" The whole class followed Miss Fazio, except for Nelson.



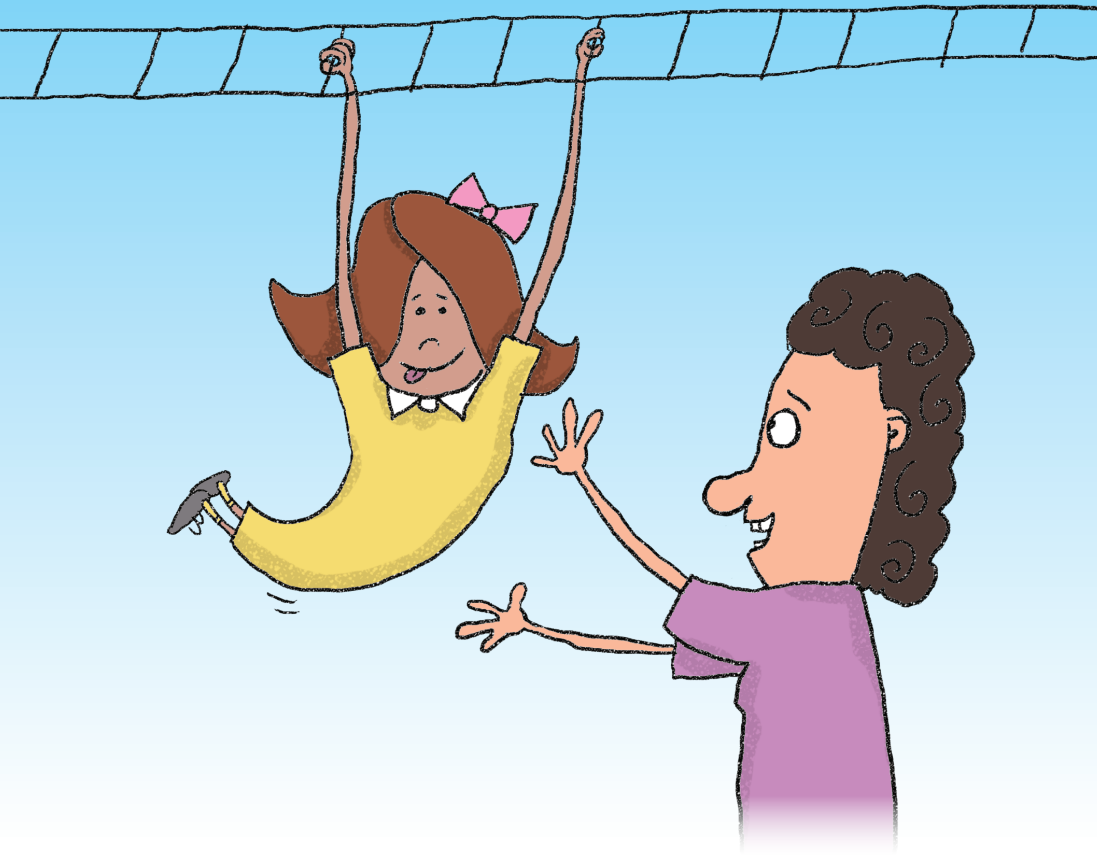
Chapter 3

Swing and Smile

Miss Fazio grabbed the first bar. Her arms wobbled. She grabbed another bar. Her arms really wobbled and her legs dangled.

"It is — er, ah — certainly a — arrghhh — challenge," she panted, and then fell in a heap on the ground. Everyone laughed.





"Who wants to have a go?" said Miss Fazio. "Come on, class. Come on, Brooke."

A swarm of arms and legs wrapped around the bars. Everyone was swinging and swaying. Miss Fazio helped Brooke swing from one bar to the next.

"You're doing it!" cried Beatrice. Brooke smiled. Miss Fazio let go of her, and Brooke swung all by herself. Then she fell to the ground and laughed again.

"You don't look very afraid to me," smiled Miss Fazio.

Suddenly, a great wail came from the sports storeroom.



Miss Fazio and her class raced over. There was mad banging coming from inside the storeroom. Miss Fazio quickly opened the door and out fell Nelson. He was panting and sweating and very glad to see everyone.

"Claus-tro-phobia is a fear of small places," said Rahib.

"Mmmm, yes," said Miss Fazio. "Maybe we should find out more about fears."

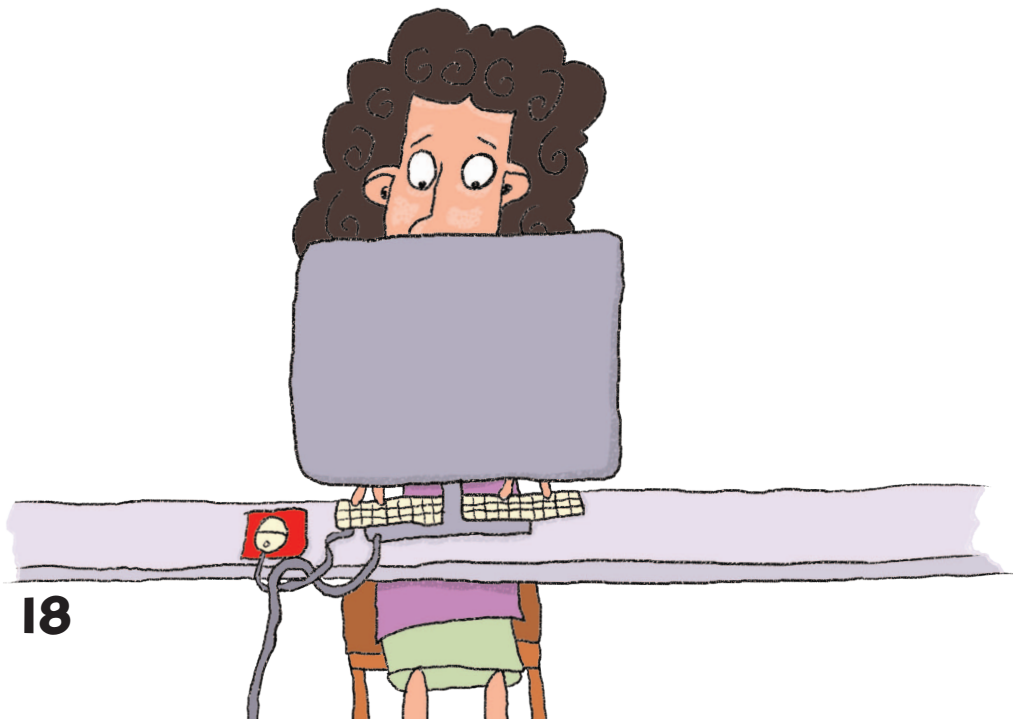


Chapter 4

A Hairy Situation

Miss Fazio led the children back to their classroom. She tapped away on the computer for a while, until she found what she was looking for.

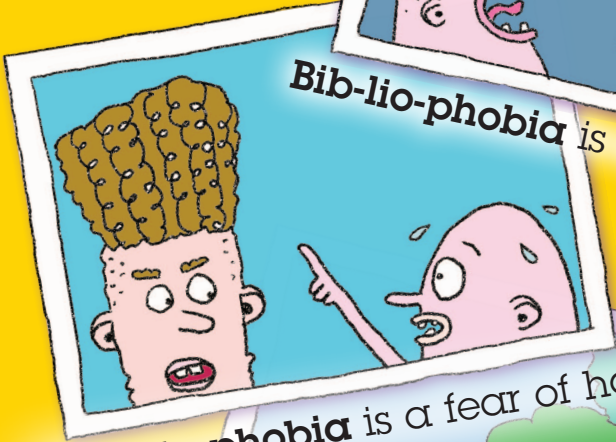
"All of these very long, funny-sounding words," said Miss Fazio, "stand for all sorts of fears."



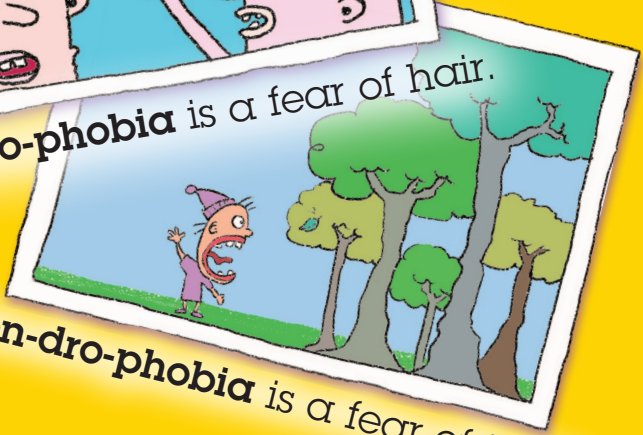
Ab-luto-phobia is a fear of washing.



Bib-lio-phobia is a fear of books.



Chae-to-phobia is a fear of hair.

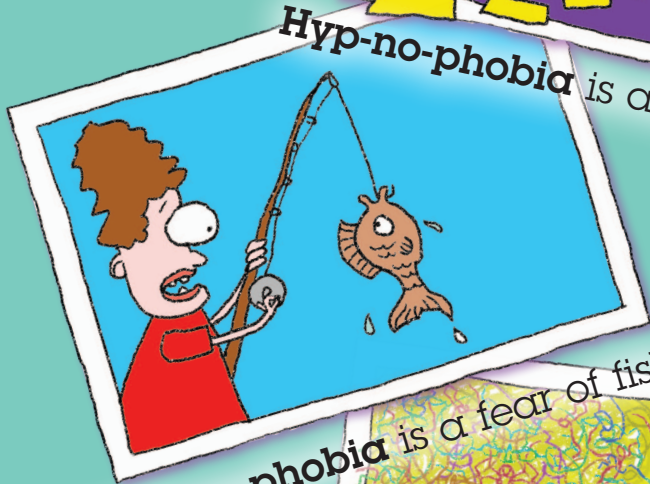


Den-dro-phobia is a fear of trees.

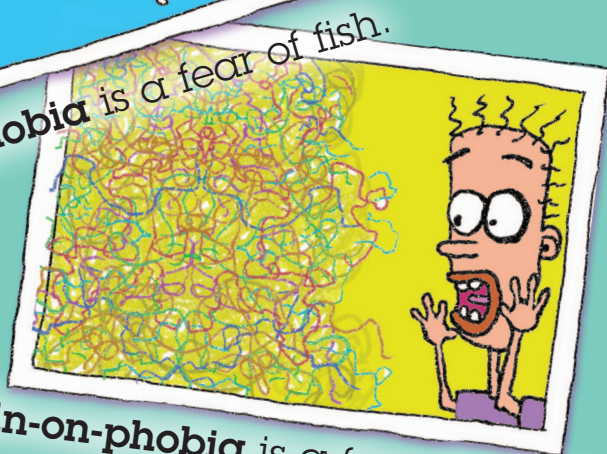
Gen-u-phobia is a fear of knees.



Hyp-no-phobia is a fear of sleep.



Ich-thy-o-phobia is a fear of fish.



Lin-on-phobia is a fear of string.

Miss Fazio was in the middle of a very funny story about a man afraid of sitting down, when she froze. Her eyes grew wide. She gasped. Her breathing became fast.

Bruno knew the signs. "What is it, Miss?" he asked.



"I-I-I don't like spiders," whispered Miss Fazio.

"You'll be fine, Miss Fazio," said Bruno helpfully. "There's no need to be afraid of spiders. They're wonderful creatures."



"I'll get rid of it for you, Miss," said Nelson, jumping up.

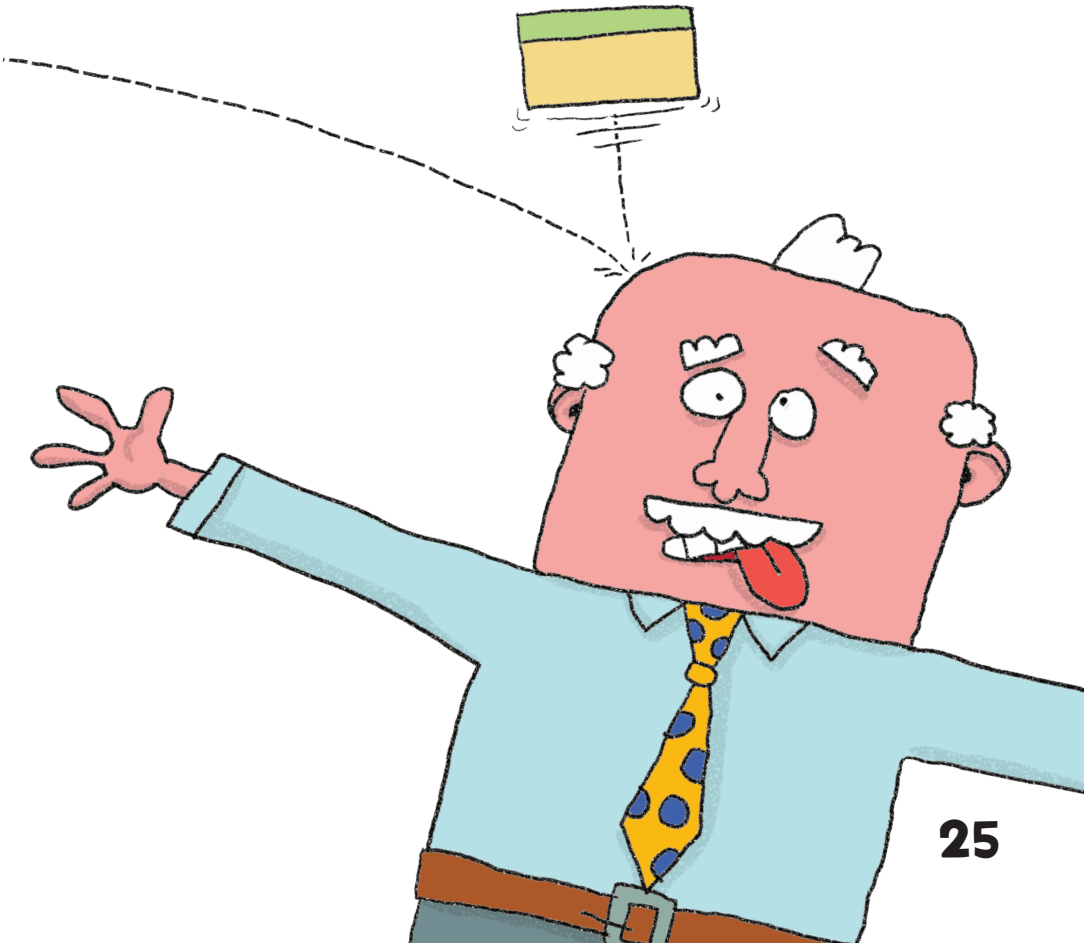
"Stay, Nelson!" said Miss Fazio. Without taking her eyes off the beast on the wall, Miss Fazio grabbed her feather duster. She closed her eyes and swung it in the air, in the broad direction of the spider. The spider remained safe and a long way from Miss Fazio.

"Way to go, Miss Fazio," said Miles, grinning. "Face your fear."

spider
↓

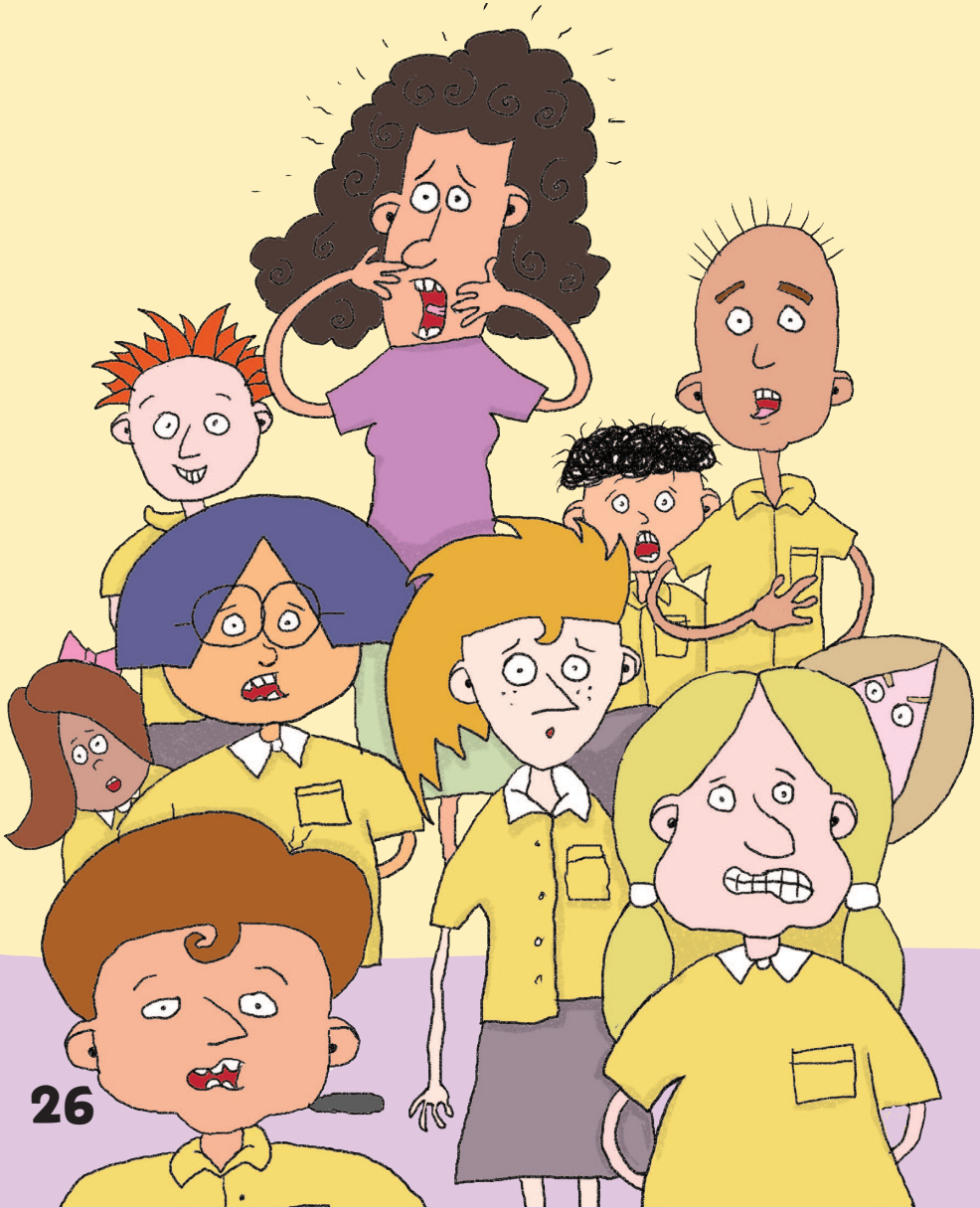


Miss Fazio put the feather duster down and grabbed the board wiper. She aimed it at the spider. Her hand was shaking badly. She threw the wiper hard — just as the classroom door opened. In walked Mr Zapple, the principal, and the wiper hit him right on the head. He sank to the floor, out cold.

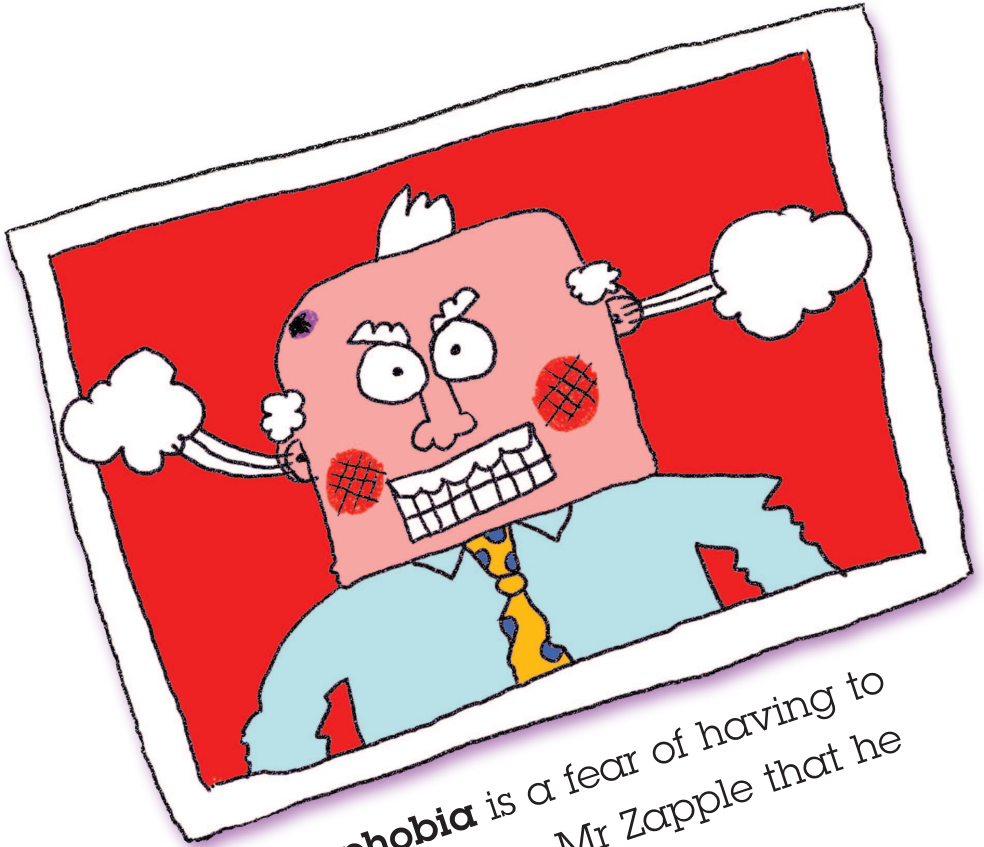


The whole class gasped, but no-one louder than Miss Fazio.

"Oh dear," said Miss Fazio quietly.



Now Miss Fazio had a new fear — how was she going to explain this to the Principal when he woke up?



Zapplephobia is a fear of having to explain things to Mr Zapple that he may not understand.

Glossary



fainted

became unconscious for a short time



feather duster

a stick with feathers on one end, used for cleaning



hive

a place where bees live



hovering

staying in one place in the air OR waiting somewhere



monkey bars

vertical and horizontal bars for children to play on



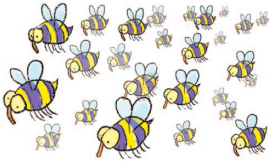
nanna

a grandmother



out cold

unconscious



swarm

a group of insects or
people all moving
together



wail

a long, high, loud cry



way to go

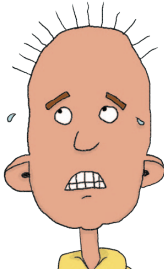
a statement of
encouragement, like
saying "well done"

Looking at a narrative

Orientation

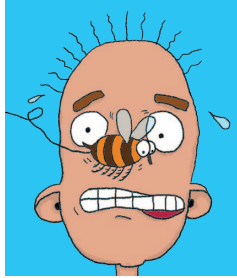
(Who? What? Where?)

Who?



Bruno

What?



A bee is buzzing around Bruno.

Where?



The schoolyard

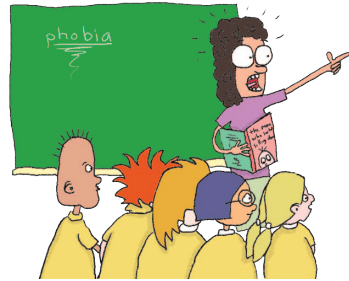
Complication

(What happens? What goes wrong? How does the character feel?)



PROBLEM 1

Nelson teases Bruno for being afraid of bees.

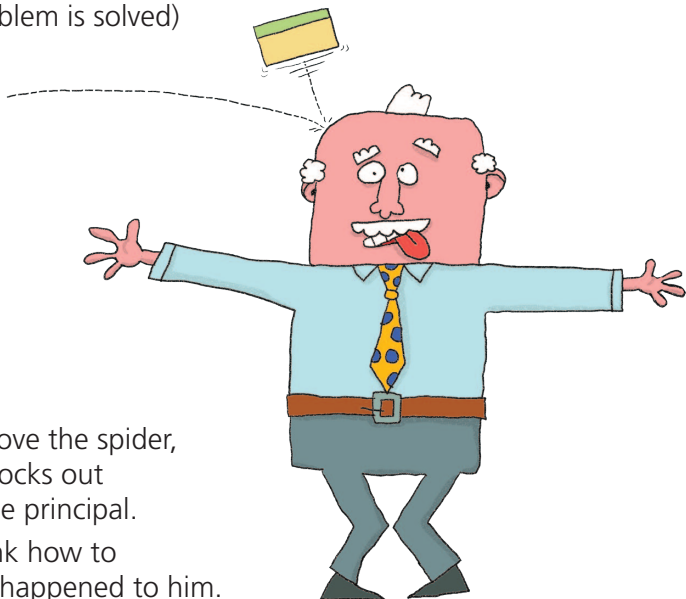


PROBLEM 2

Miss Fazio teaches the students about fears but becomes fearful herself when she sees a spider.

Resolution

(How the problem is solved)



Trying to remove the spider, Miss Fazio knocks out Mr Zapple, the principal. She must think how to explain what happened to him.

Action verbs to look out for

buzzed
sank

grabbed
stood

laughed
stopped

nodded
watched

rolled
weaved

Saying verbs to look out for

asked
reminded

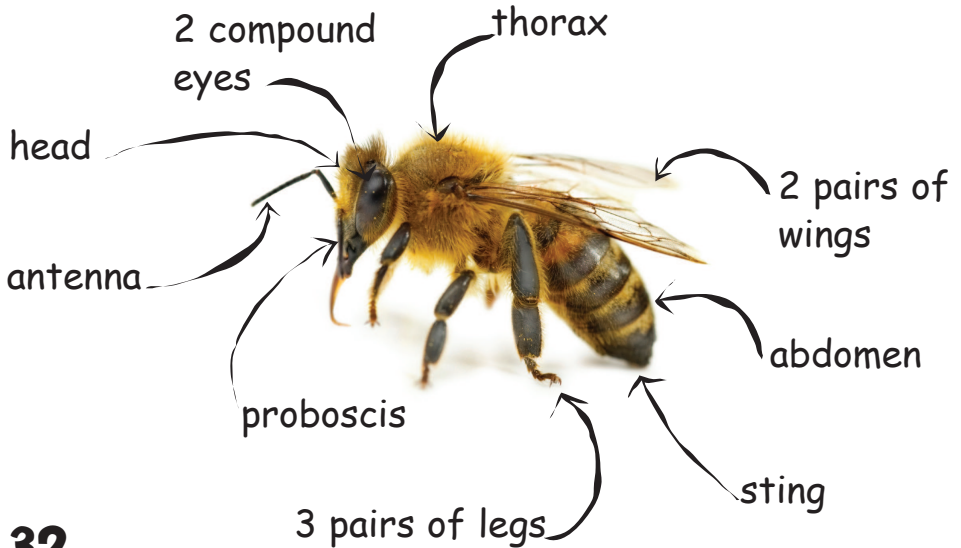
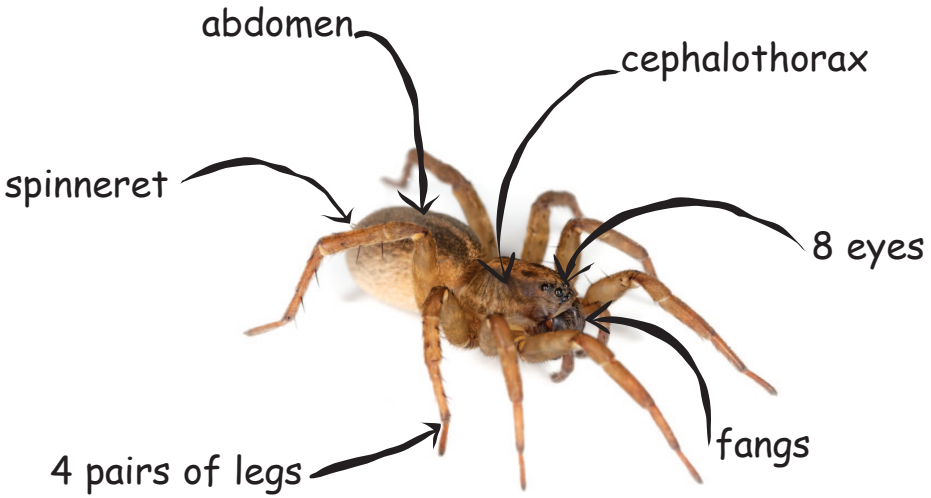
blurted
snorted

continued
spluttered

cried
squealed

declared
whispered

Know What You Fear!





Before reading


- What is the title of the story?
- Find the names of the author and illustrator.
- Is there anything that you are frightened of? What is it and why?

After reading

- Describe how Bruno looks on page 4. What has made him behave this way?
- How does Nelson react when he discovers why Bruno is so afraid? (page 6)
- What words does Miss Fazio use to describe bees on page 10? What words would you use to describe them?
- What does the expression *face your fears* mean? Do you think it is important to face your fears? Why?
- What is Brooke afraid of? What caused her to be so afraid? (page 13)
- What does Miss Fazio do to try to help Brooke overcome her fear? Is she successful? (pages 14–15) How do you think Brooke feels on page 16?
- What happens to Nelson on page 17? Describe how you think he looks when Miss Fazio opens the storeroom door.
- Explain what a phobia is. What is *genophobia*? (page 20)
- Demonstrate how Miss Fazio behaves on page 21. What is she afraid of? (pages 22–23)
- What does Nelson offer to do for Miss Fazio on page 24? Why do you think Miss Fazio tells Nelson to stay where he is?
- What would you say to Mr Zapple if you were Miss Fazio? (page 27) How do you think he will react?

Try this

- Students invent a new name for a phobia. Complete the brainstorm activity and ask students to create an information poster about the phobia.

FEAR OF:		SIDE EFFECTS:
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____ PHOBIA		
TREATMENT:		

PLUNKETT STREET SCHOOL

Facing Fears

"Bruno has a bee buzzing around him," whispered Ruby.

"So?" snorted Nelson. "It's just a bee."

"Bruno is afraid of bees," said Miles. Nelson laughed so hard it hurt his stomach.

"Shhhhhh!" said Ruby. "You'll make the bee angry!"

Nelson rolled his eyes. "Has anyone noticed how big Bruno is and how small that bee is?"



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