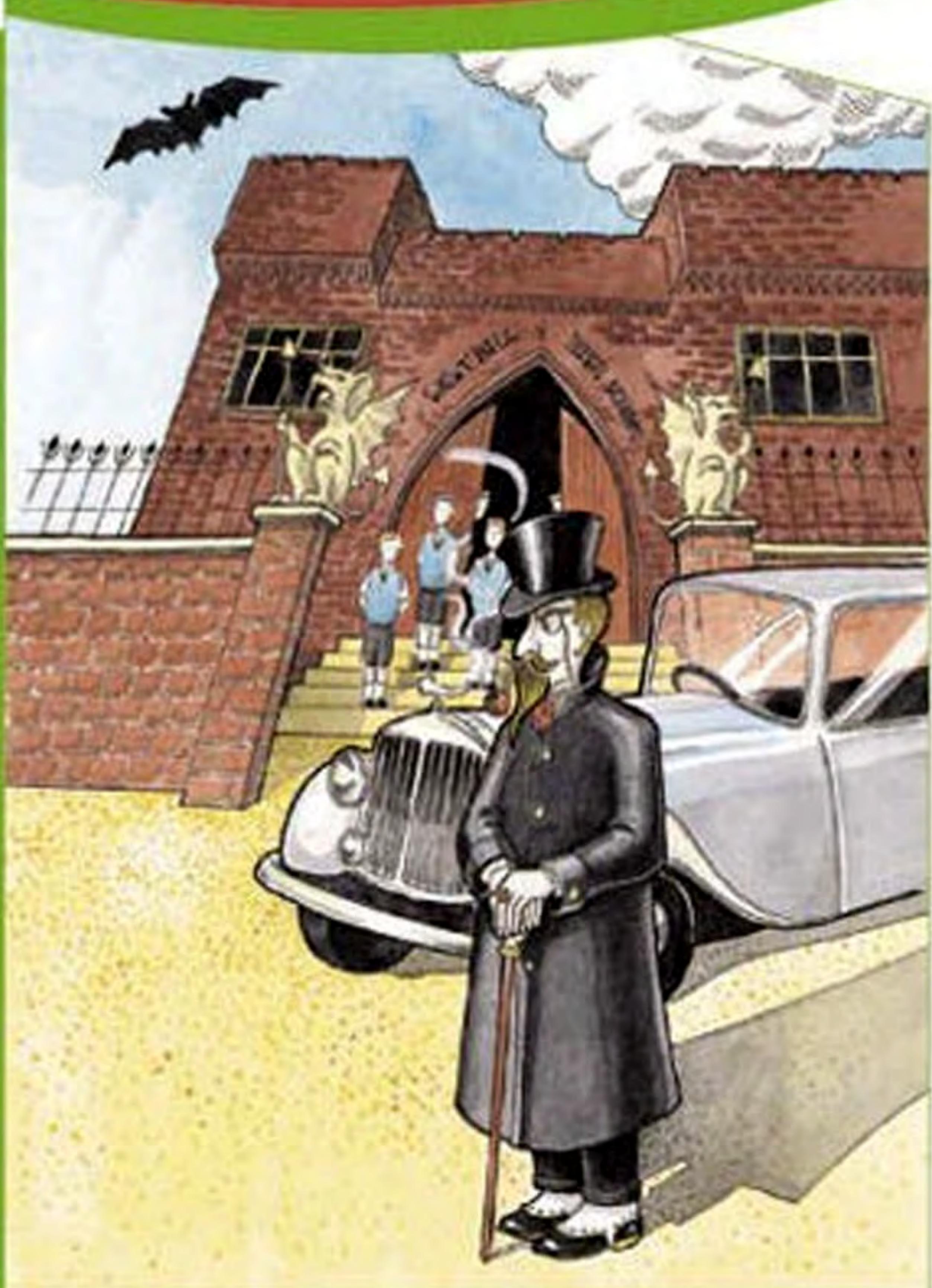




The Ghost Teacher



by Julie Hart

The Ghost Teacher

Julia Hart

 *Burlington Books*

The Ghost Teacher

by Julie Hart

Burlington Books
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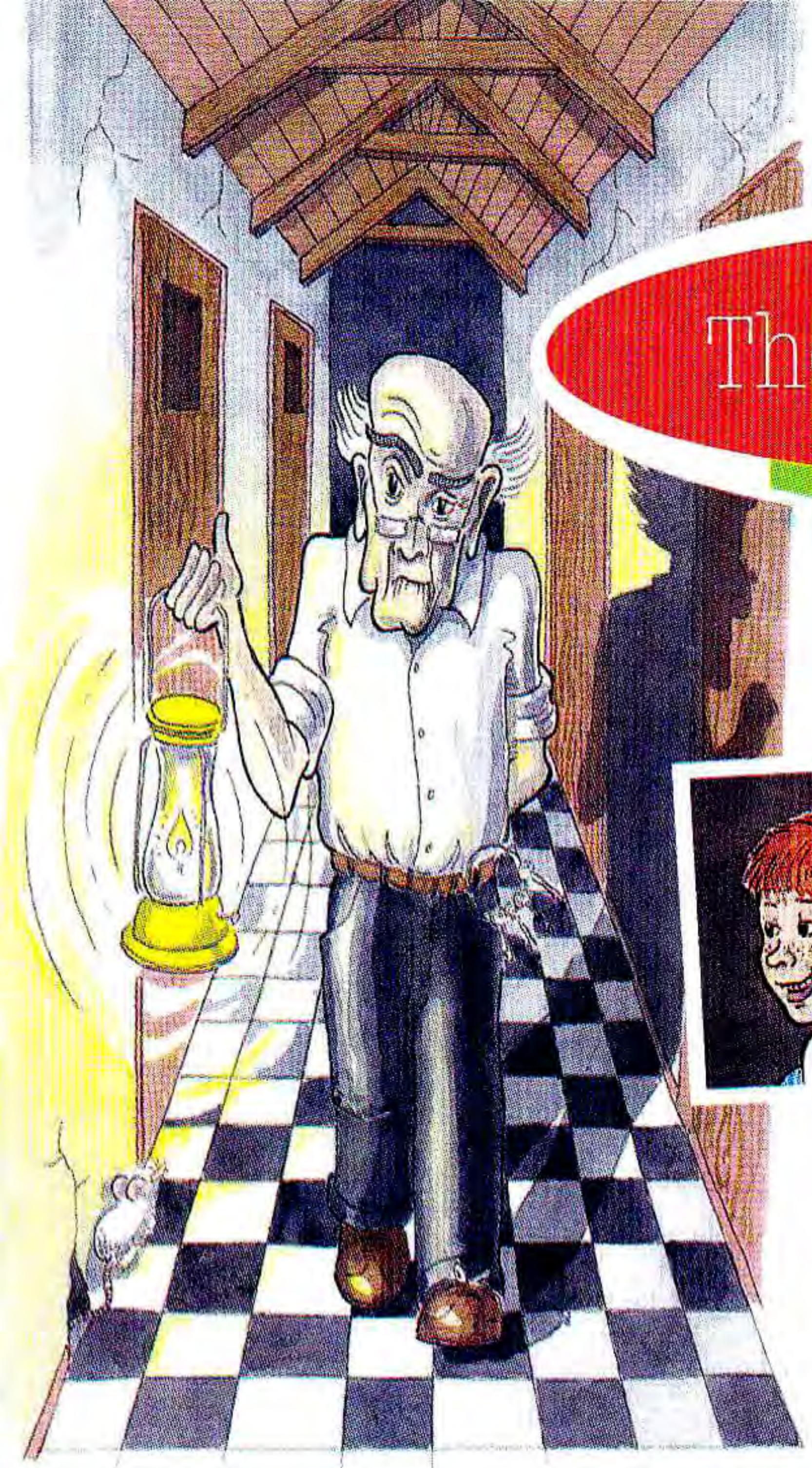
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The Ghost Teacher

Introduction



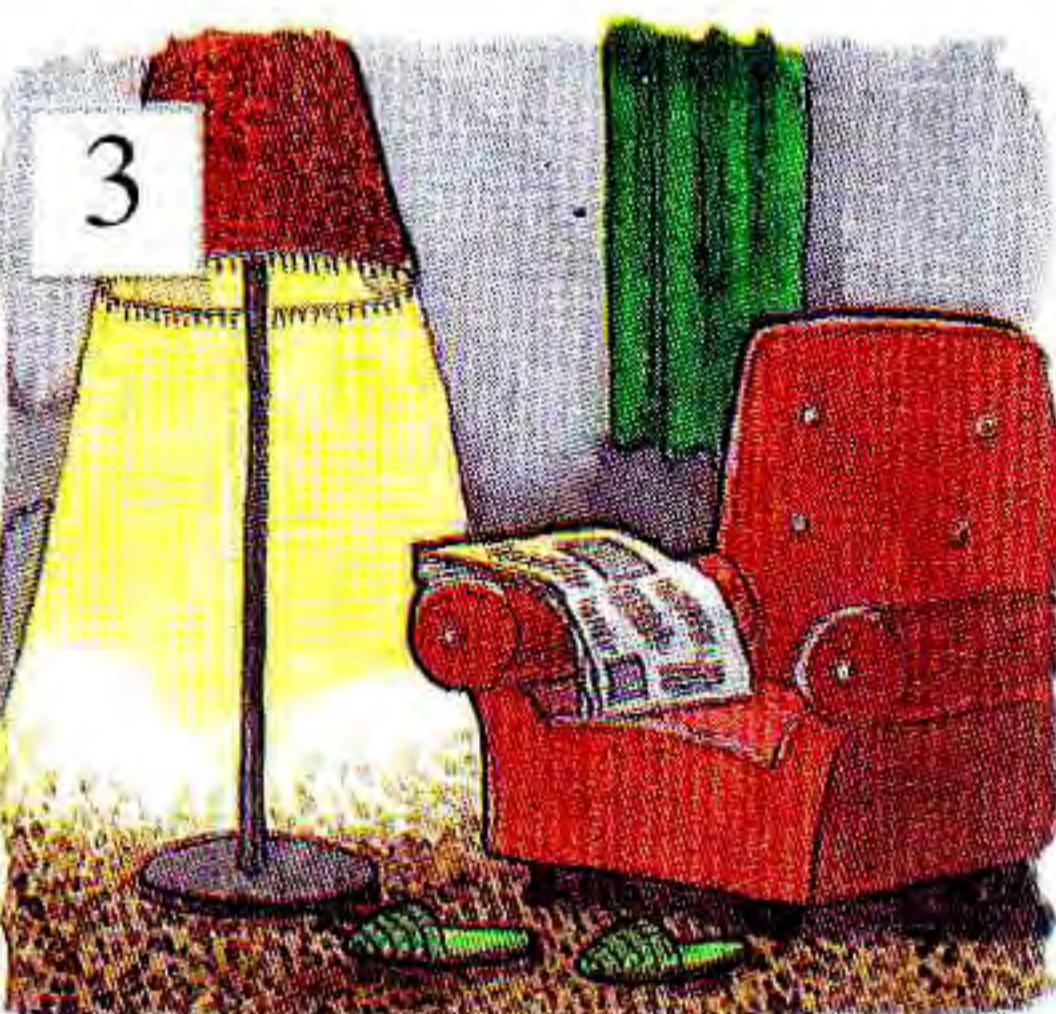
My name is Tony. I'm a student in class 2B at West Hill School. Our school is very old. Mr Wilson is the *caretaker*. He's seventy-three years old. He was a student at West Hill when he was a boy. Everybody thinks that Mr

Wilson is strange. He walks around the school with an old oil lamp at night. He says that there are ghosts in the school. He sometimes sees them in the *corridor* at night.

There are some classrooms that we don't use. Mr Wilson *locks* these rooms. He says that the ghosts live in these rooms.

We don't think that there are ghosts. But then ...

Where does Mr Wilson see the ghosts?





Chapter 1

One day, a big silver car arrives at the school gate. We run to look at it.



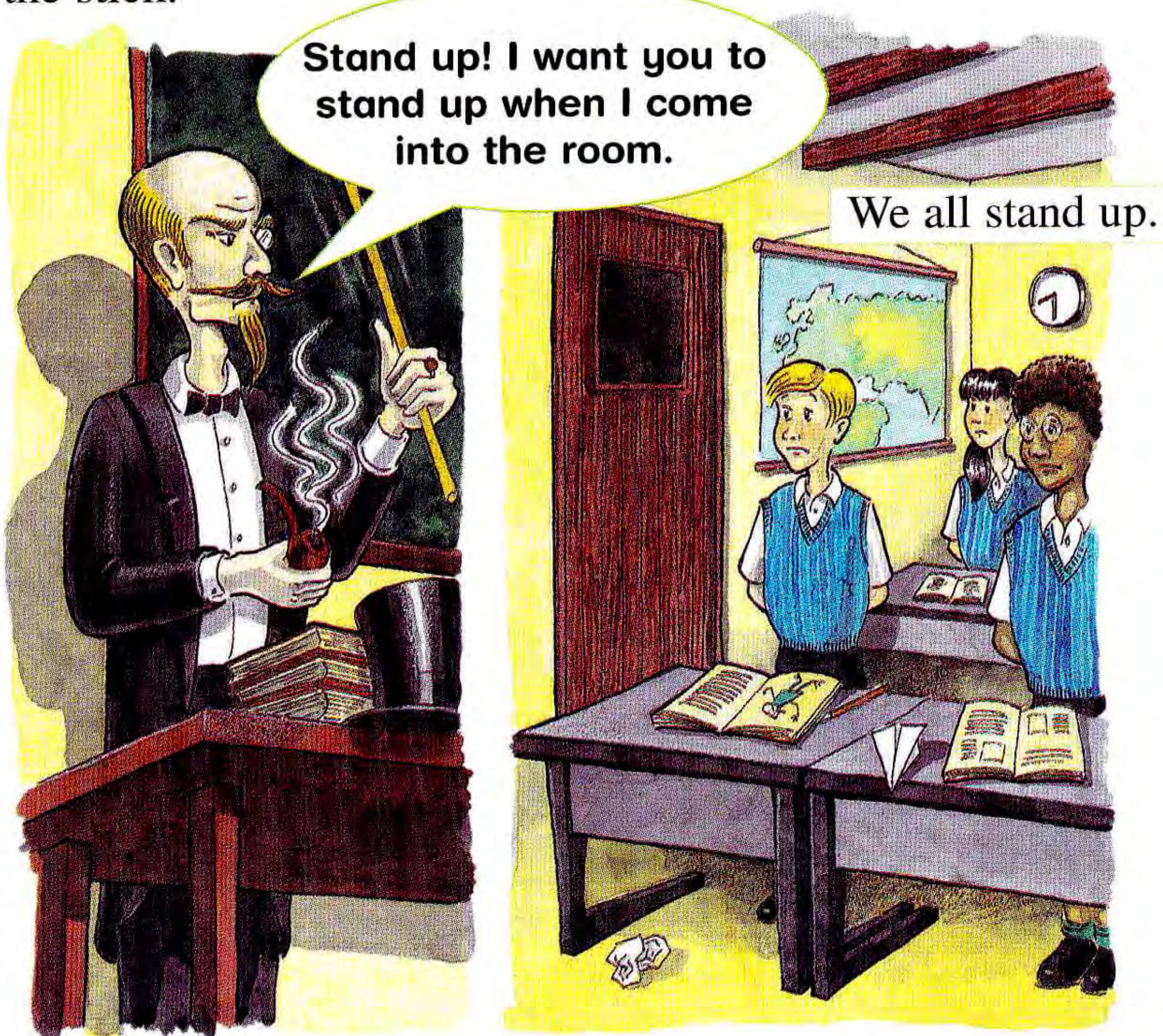
The door of the car opens. There's a *smell of smoke* from a pipe, but nobody *gets out of* the car. The door closes again and the car starts to move. It turns and goes away.

We hear the school bell. Everybody goes into the classroom. Everybody is talking about the strange silver car. Our teacher doesn't arrive. The head teacher comes into the classroom.

“Your teacher is *ill* today,” says the head teacher. “She’s not at school. You’ve got a new teacher. His name is Mr Brown.”

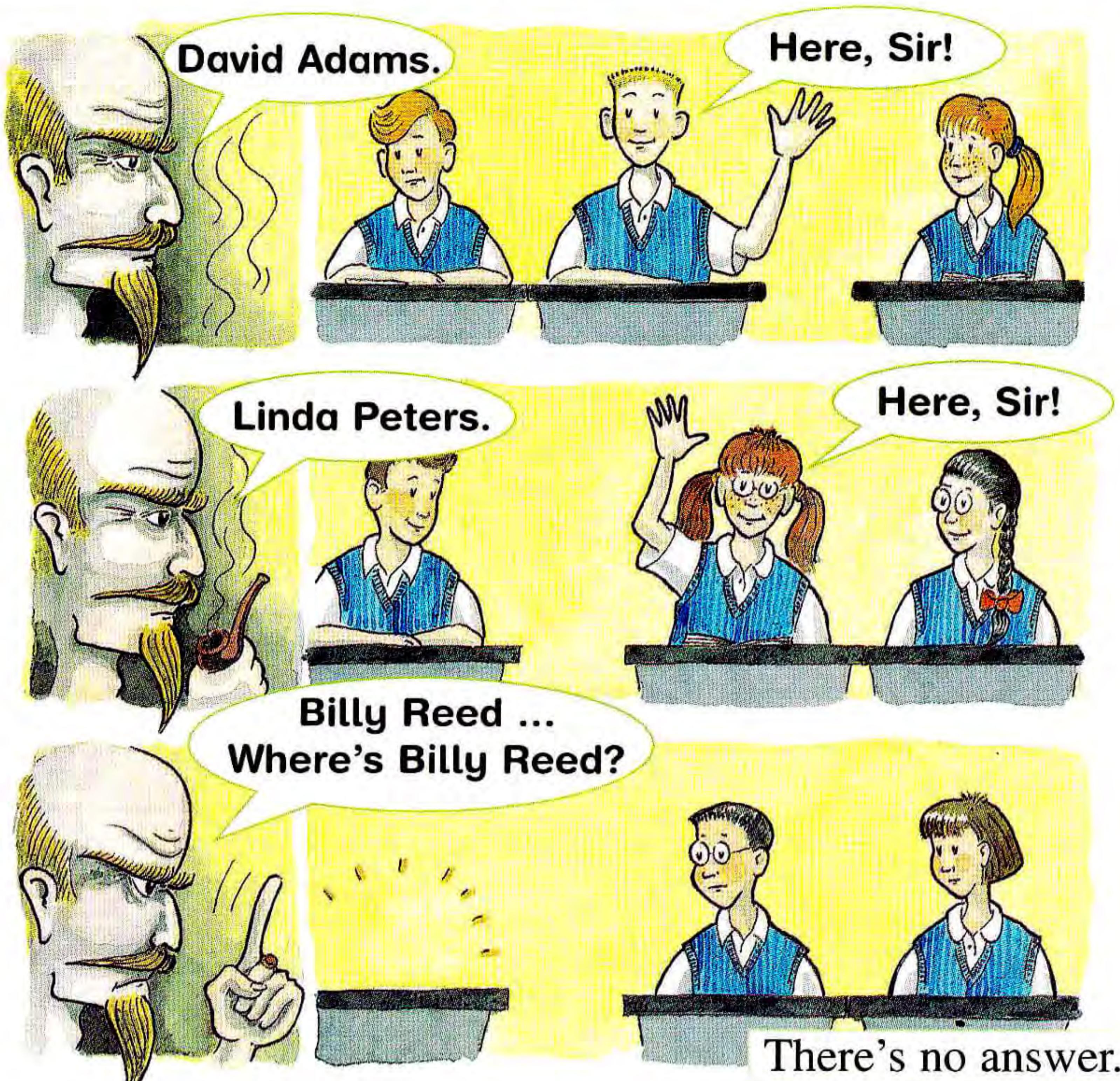
A strange man comes into our classroom. He’s got a black hat and a long black coat. There’s a pipe in his mouth. He’s got a lot of books and a *stick*.

The man puts the books down and *hits* the table with the stick.



“My name is Mr Brown,” the man says. “I’m your new teacher. Sit down, everybody. When you speak to me, call me ‘Sir’. I’m going to say your names. When you hear your name, answer, ‘Here, Sir!’”

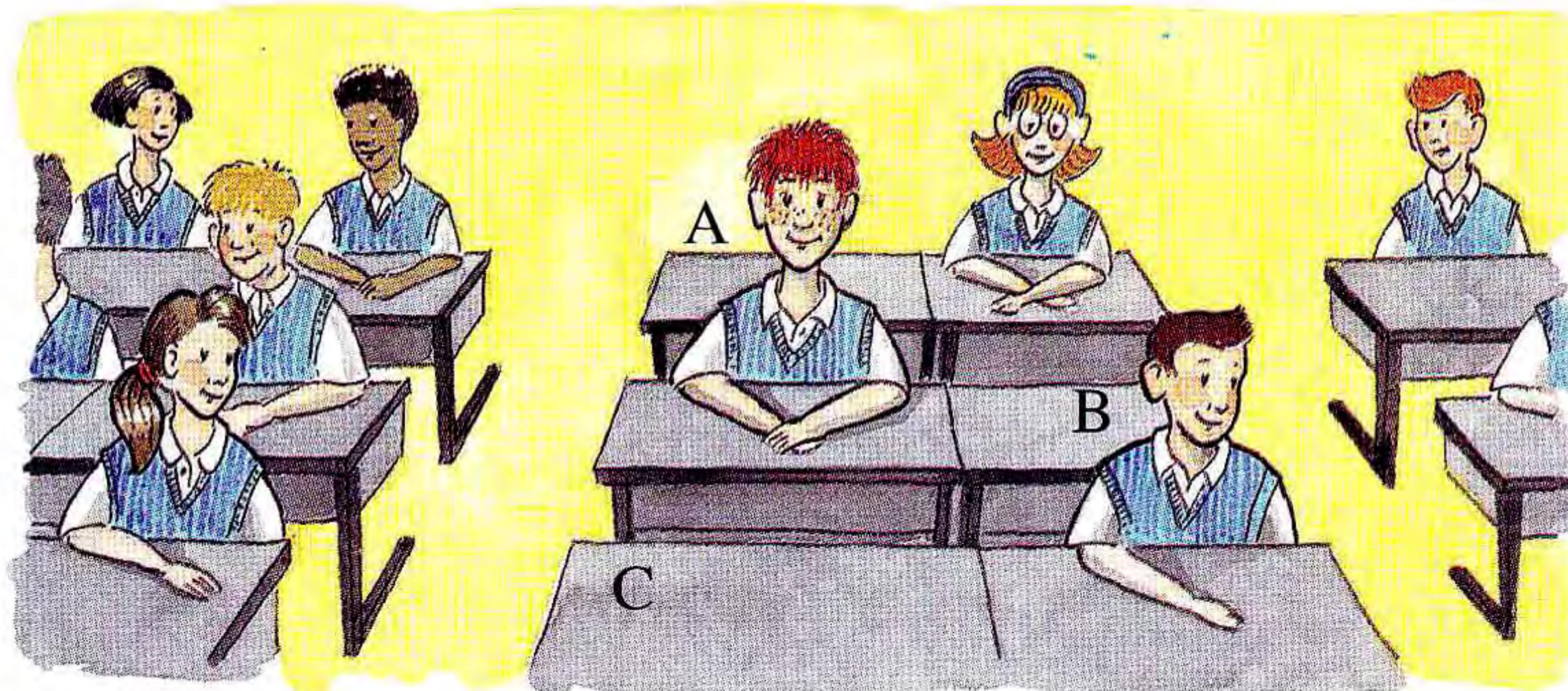
Mr Brown says our names.



Billy Reed sits in the *seat* next to me. His seat is empty. I put up my hand.

“Billy isn’t here, Sir.”

Where does Billy sit in the classroom – A, B or C?



THE GHOST TEACHER

The door opens and Billy Reed runs into the classroom.



Mr Brown has got a lot of books. They're very old. He puts them on our desks. They've got old pictures in them.

Mr Brown says, "Turn to page one hundred and thirty."



We turn to the page and see a picture of a very old motor car. It's got big wheels and a big seat at the front. There's a long black seat at the back. It's similar to the car with the mysterious driver.

This is a new type of motor car. Do you know what model it is?

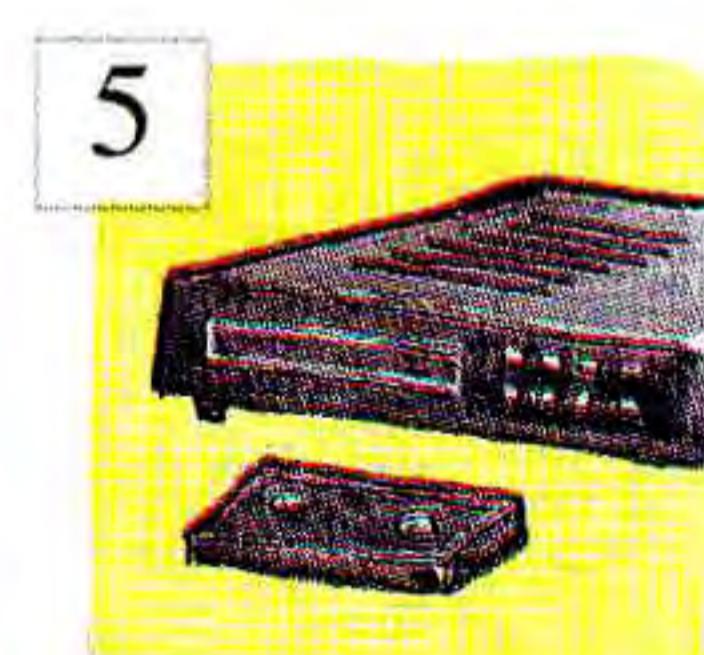
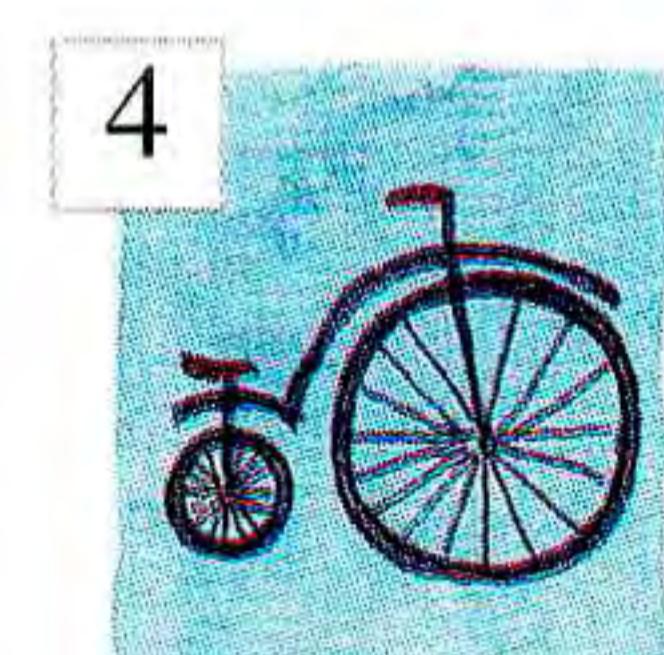
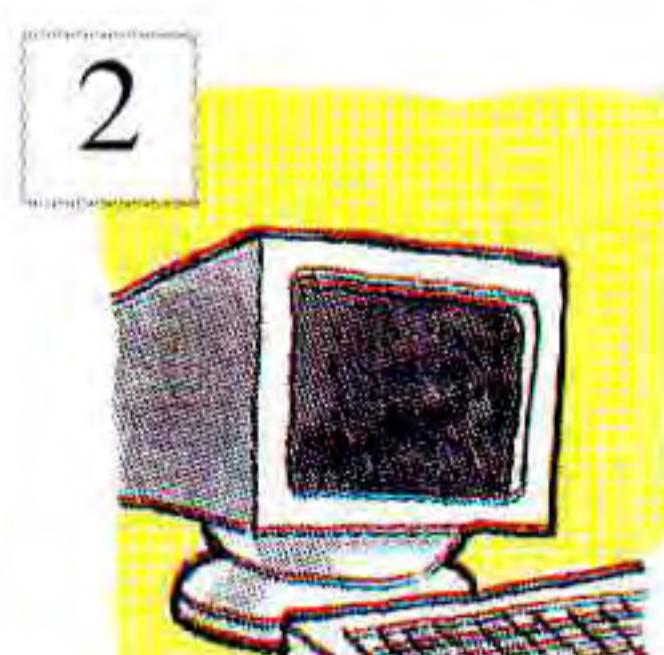
What does Mr Brown mean? That isn't a new type of car.

Susan Smart puts up her hand.

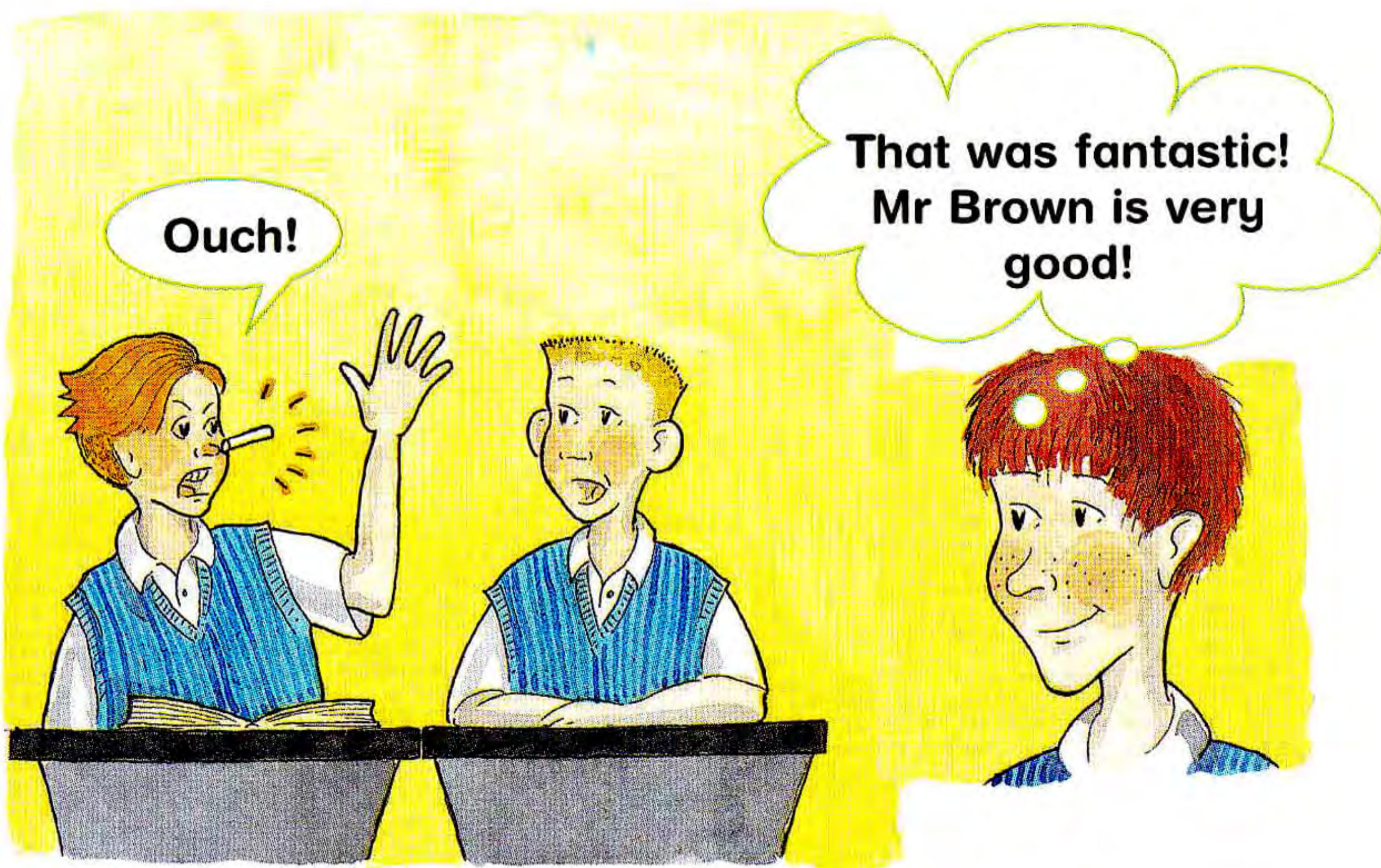
The car is a Phantom. It's a 1935 model.

We all **hate** Susan Smart. She always knows everything. Steven Dobson **throws** a pen at her. It **falls** in her hair. Susan is angry. She pulls the pen from her hair.

What things are in the pictures in Mr Brown's books?

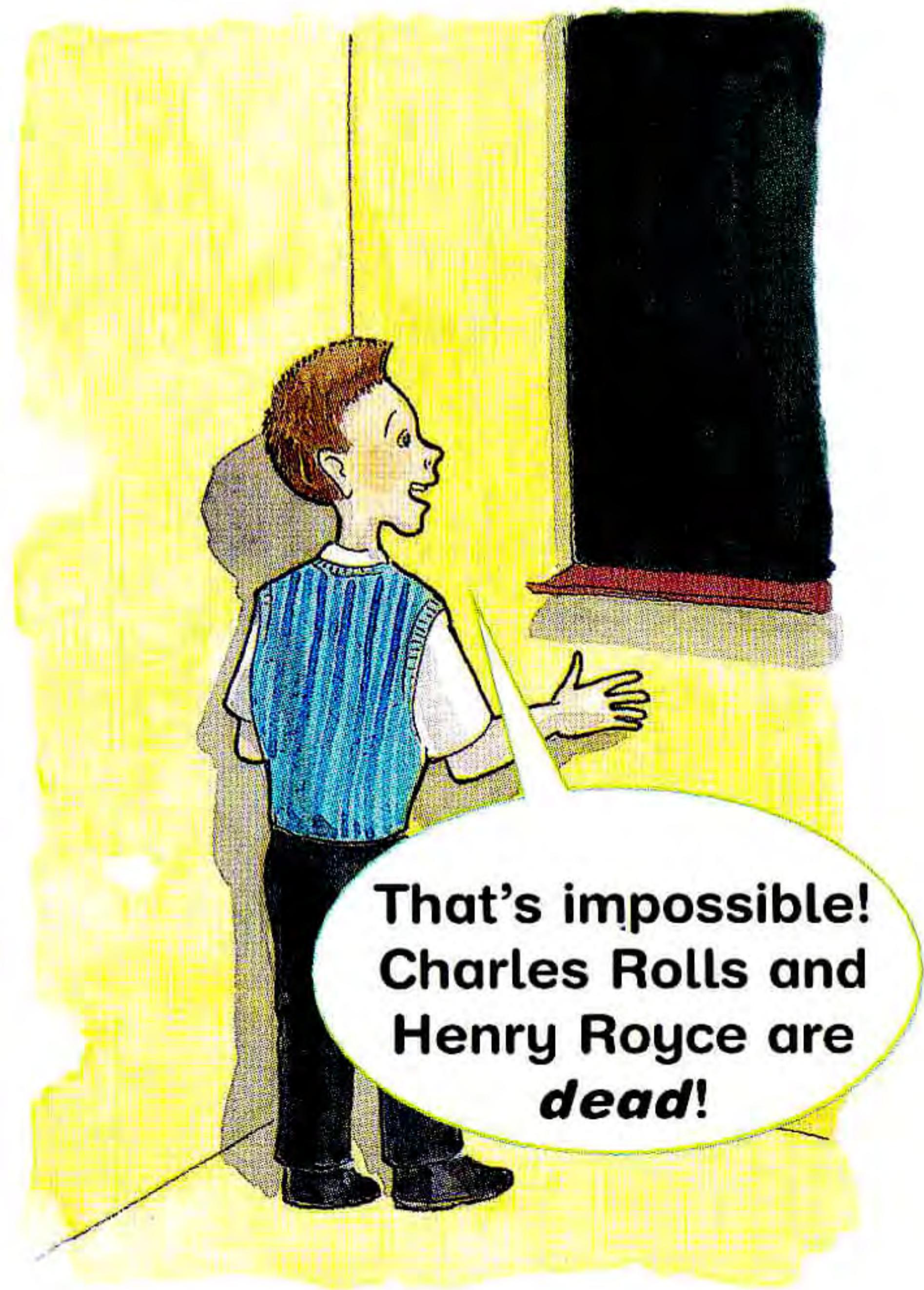


Suddenly, a piece of chalk hits Steven Dobson on the nose. Everybody laughs.



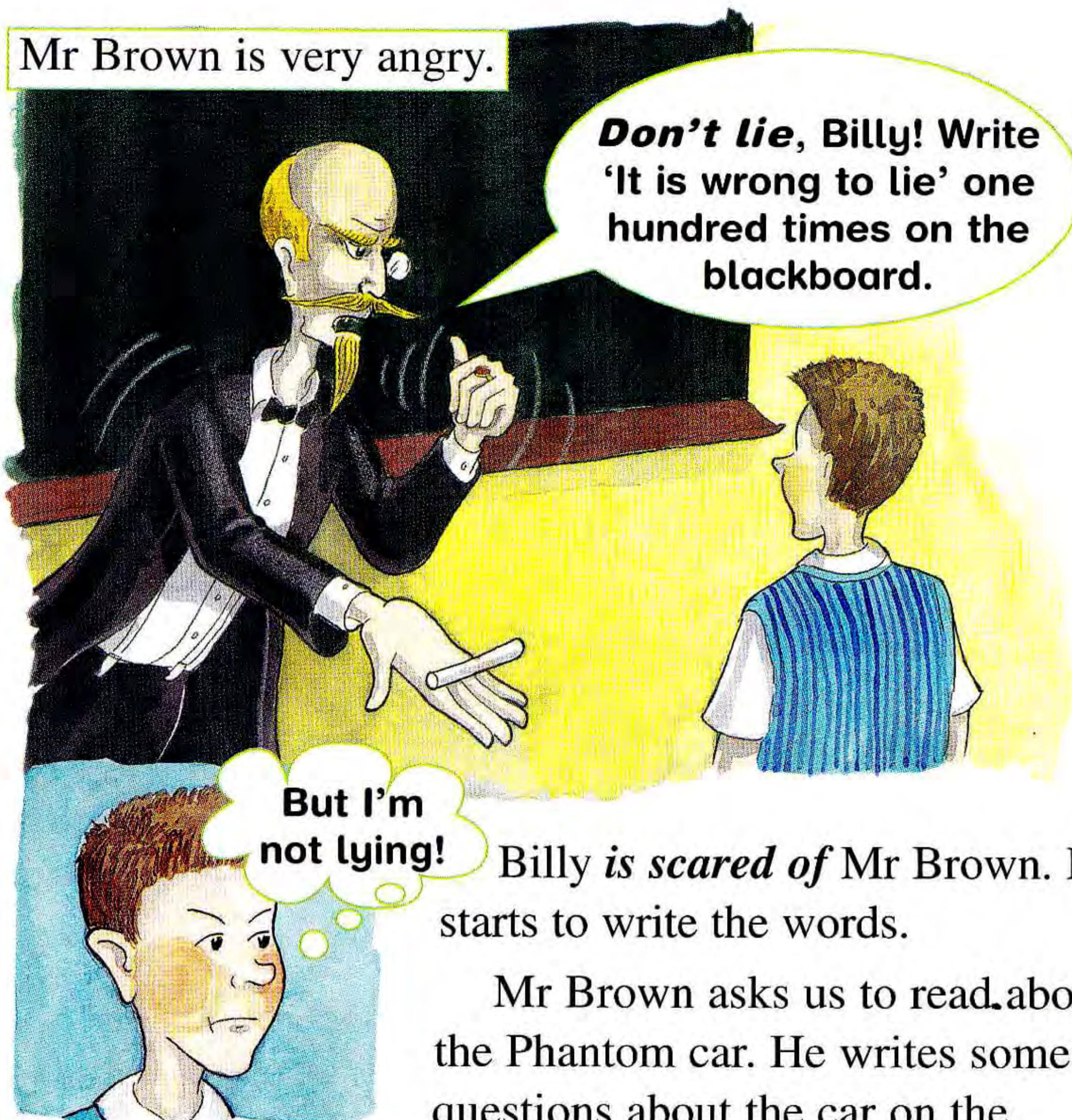
We all look at Mr Brown. He's got some chalk in his hand again.

Mr Brown continues, "Yes, Susan. This is a picture of a Phantom. The *designers* are my friends. They're very intelligent men. Their names are Charles Rolls and Henry Royce. Henry Royce sometimes *takes me for a drive* in his car."





Mr Brown is very angry.

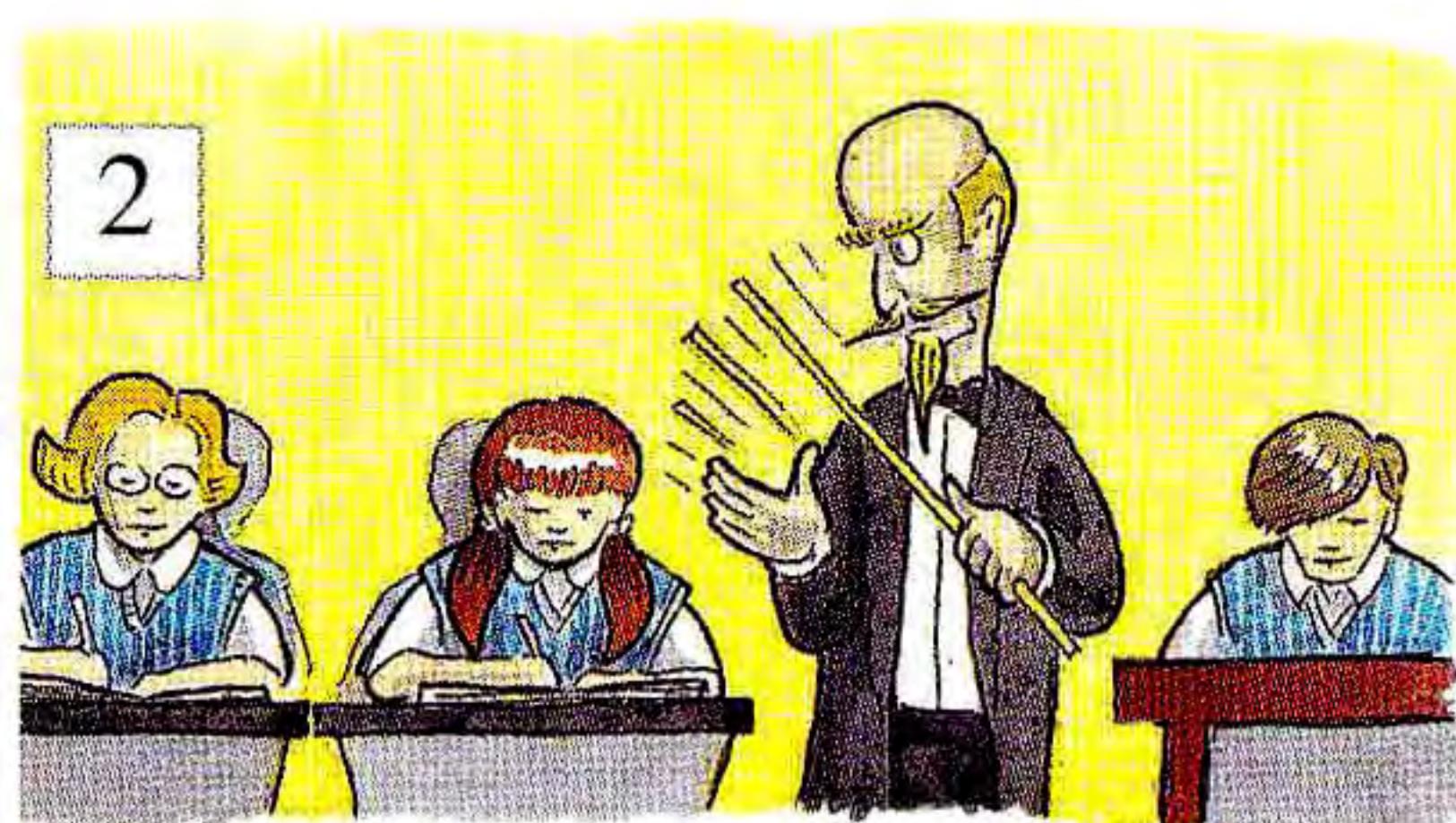
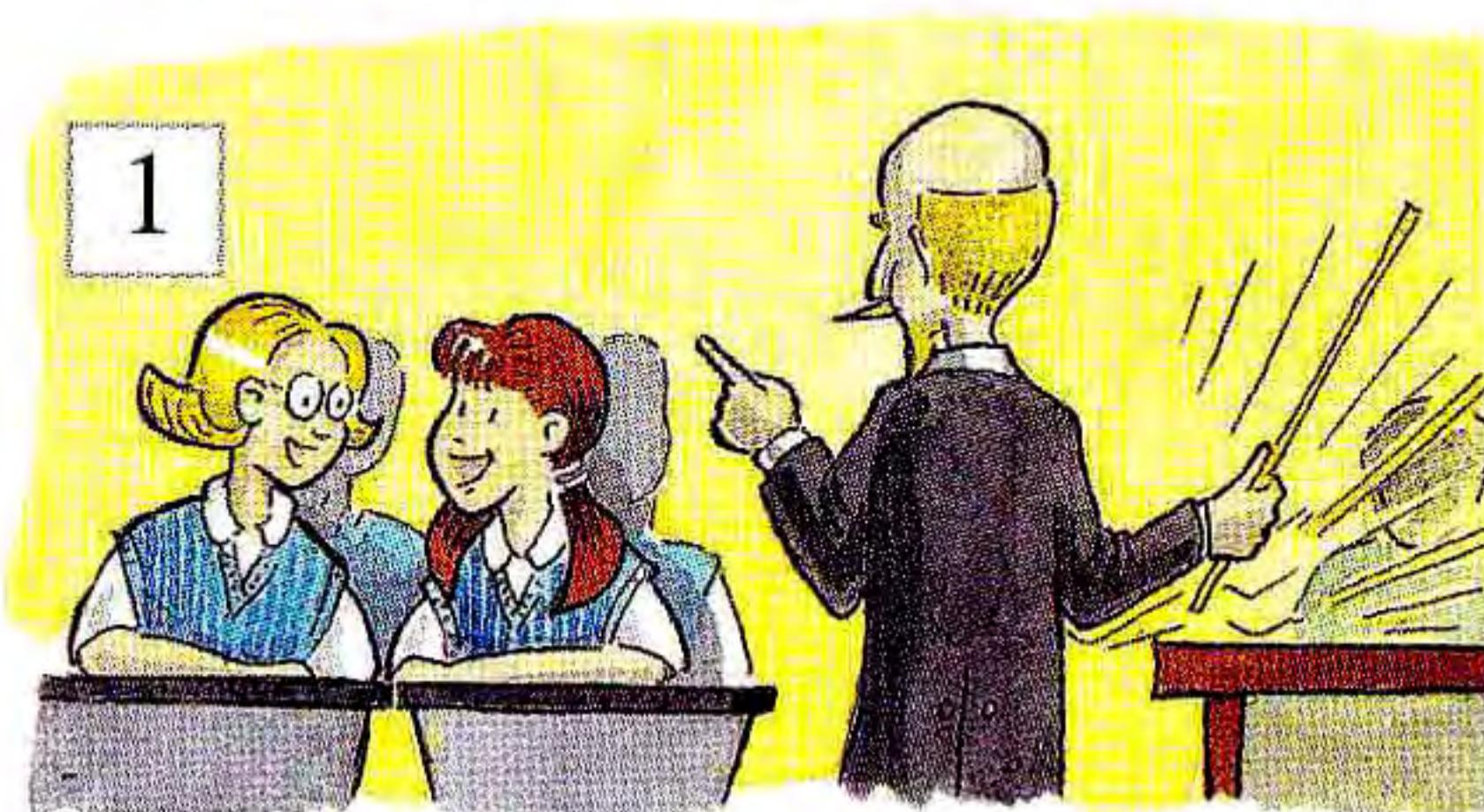


Billy is *scared* of Mr Brown. He starts to write the words.

Mr Brown asks us to read about the Phantom car. He writes some questions about the car on the blackboard.

We answer the questions in our exercise books. Mr Brown walks up and down the *rows* of desks. He *taps* his stick on his hand all the time. We're all very quiet. Nobody wants to make Mr Brown angry.

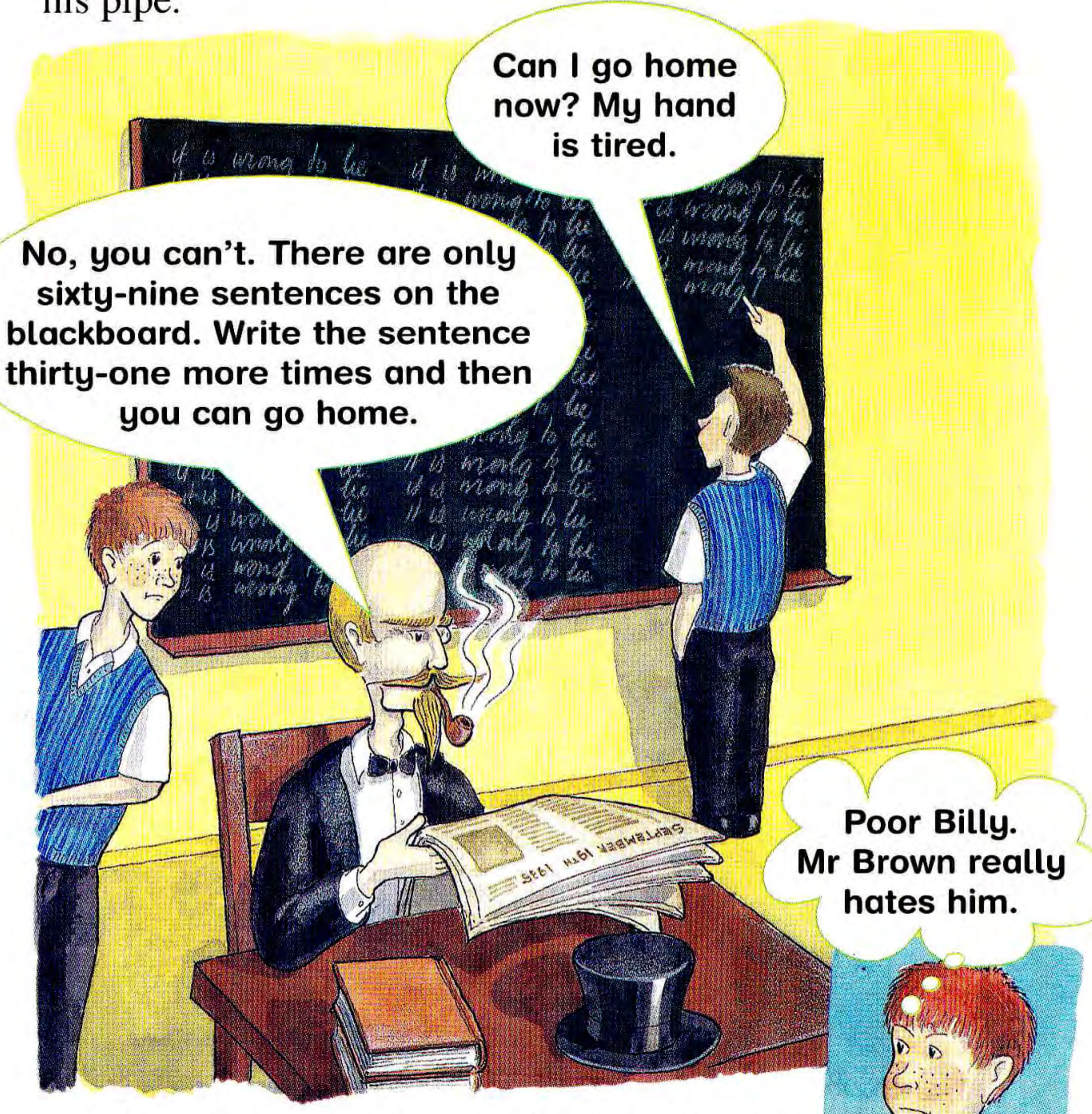
Choose the correct picture.



Chapter 2

After school, I go to the classroom again to get a book from my desk. Billy and Mr Brown are there. Billy is writing on the blackboard.

Mr Brown doesn't see me. I smell the smoke from his pipe.

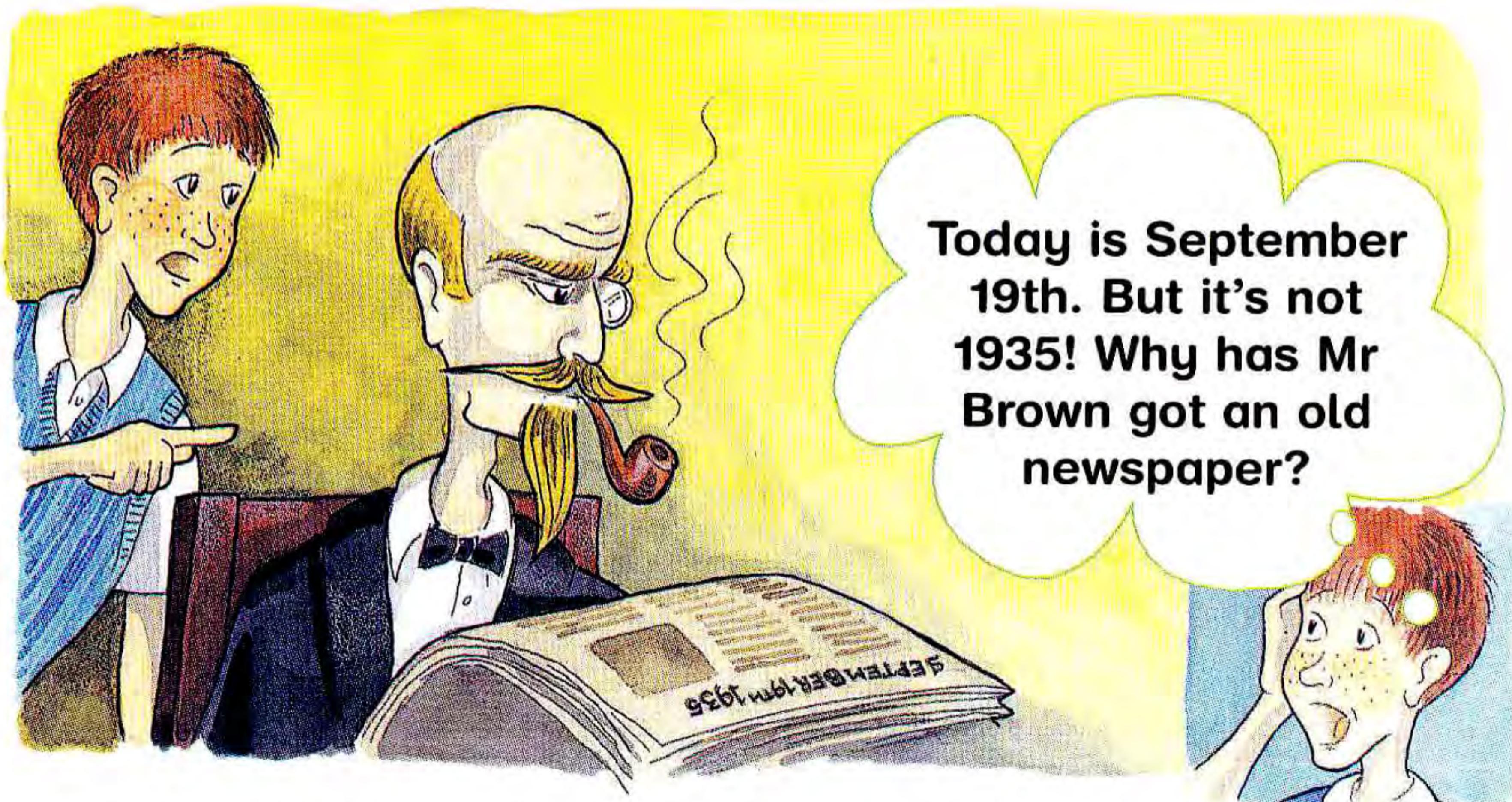


My desk is at the front of the class. I walk behind Mr Brown's table to get my book.



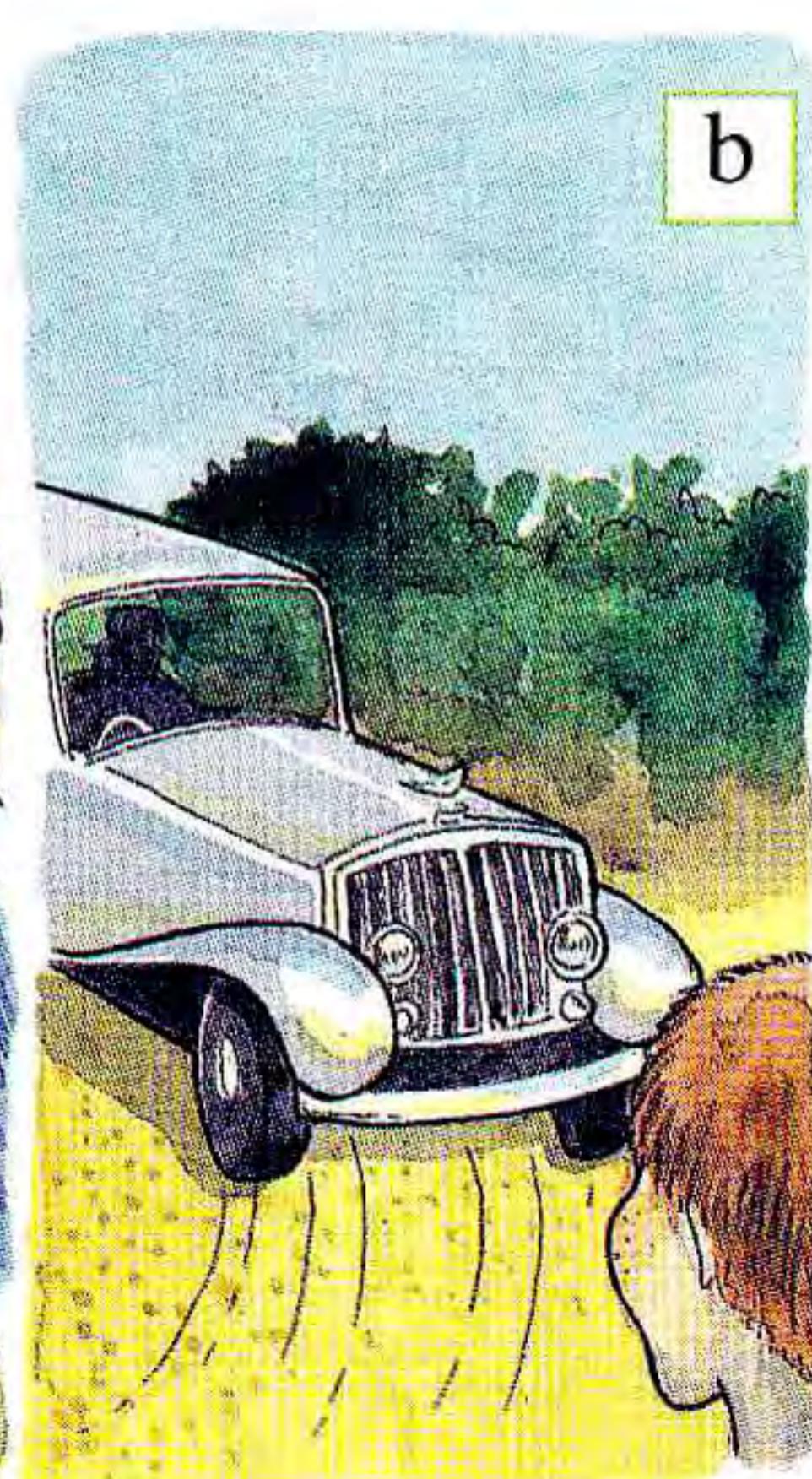
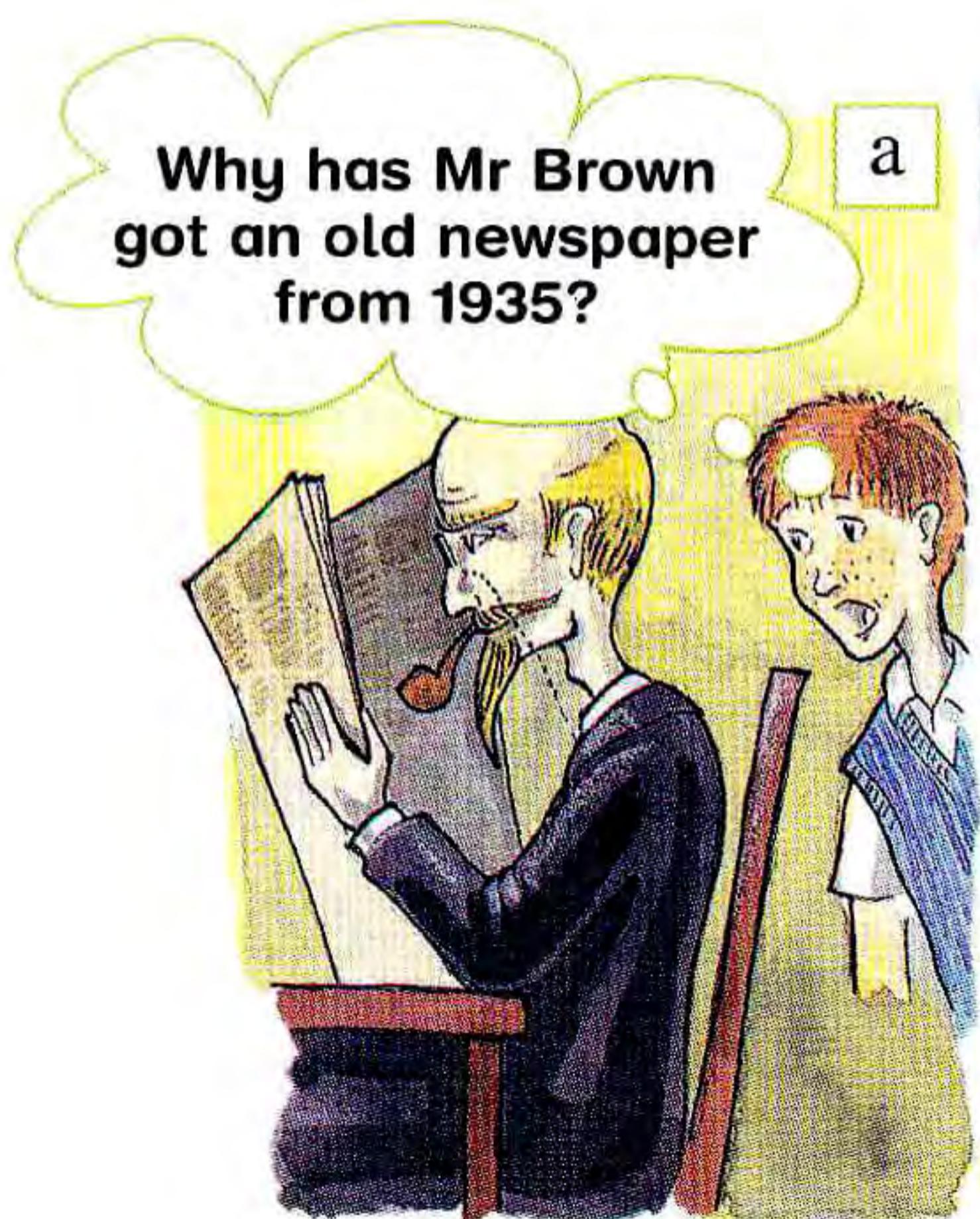
THE GHOST TEACHER

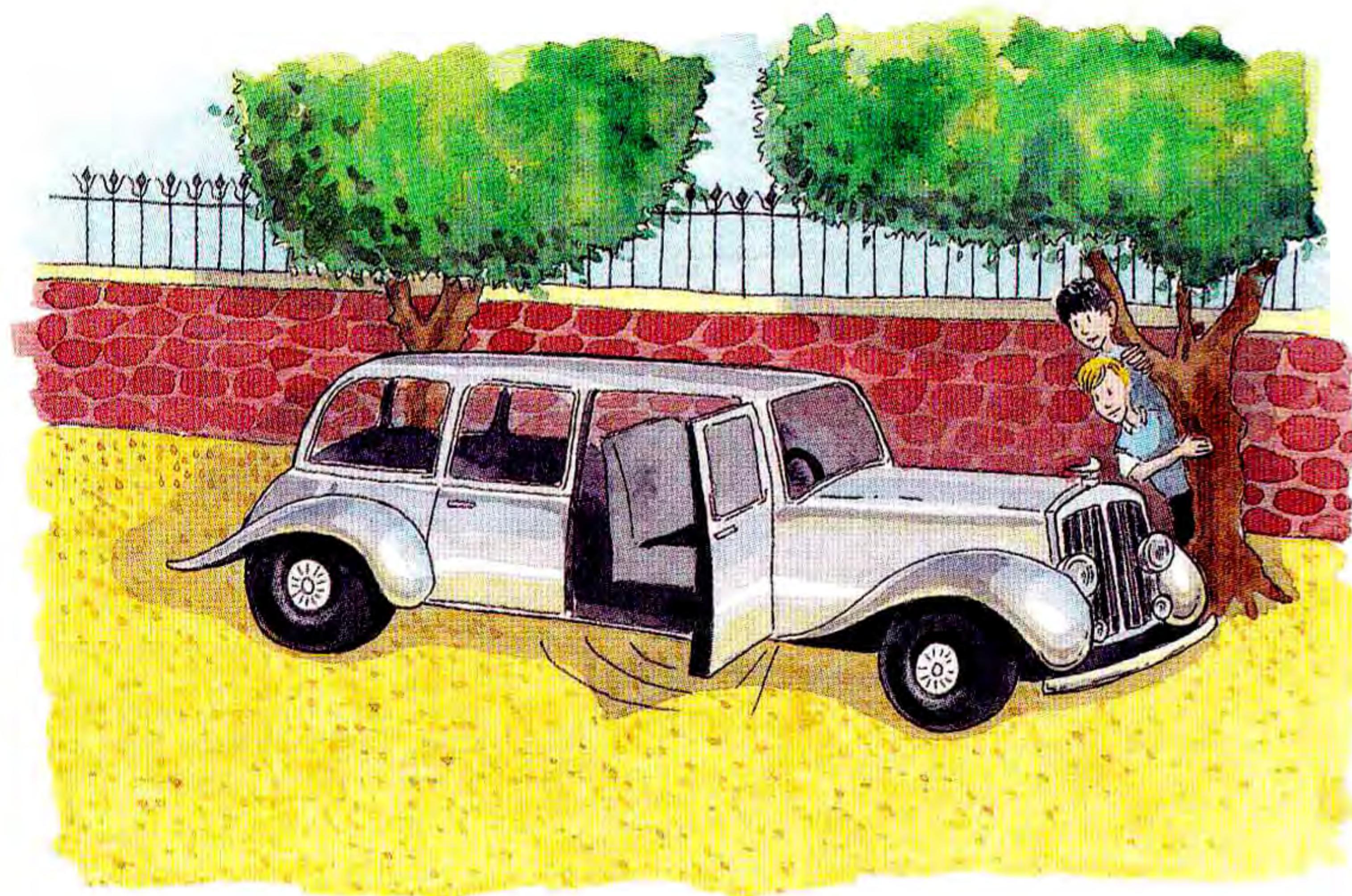
Mr Brown is reading a newspaper. I look over his shoulder. The date on the newspaper is September 19th, 1935.



I run out of school. The silver car is outside the school gate. The door opens. It's dark inside. Nobody gets in or out. Then the door closes. The car turns and goes away.

What happened first? second? third? Put the pictures in the correct order.





The next day, the silver car arrives at the school. Again the door opens and closes but nobody gets out. Again we smell the smoke from a pipe.

Mr Brown comes into the classroom. He's got a very old radio. It's a big box made of **wood** with some black buttons.

Mr Brown turns the buttons on the radio. We hear an old song.

“Listen to this song,” Mr Brown says. “This is Frank Sinatra singing. He’s singing his new song.”

“That isn’t a new song. It’s really old,” Billy Reed says to me quietly.

“Yes, I know. I don’t understand what Mr Brown means,” I answer.

Susan Smart puts up her hand. “This song was popular sixty years **ago**,” she says.

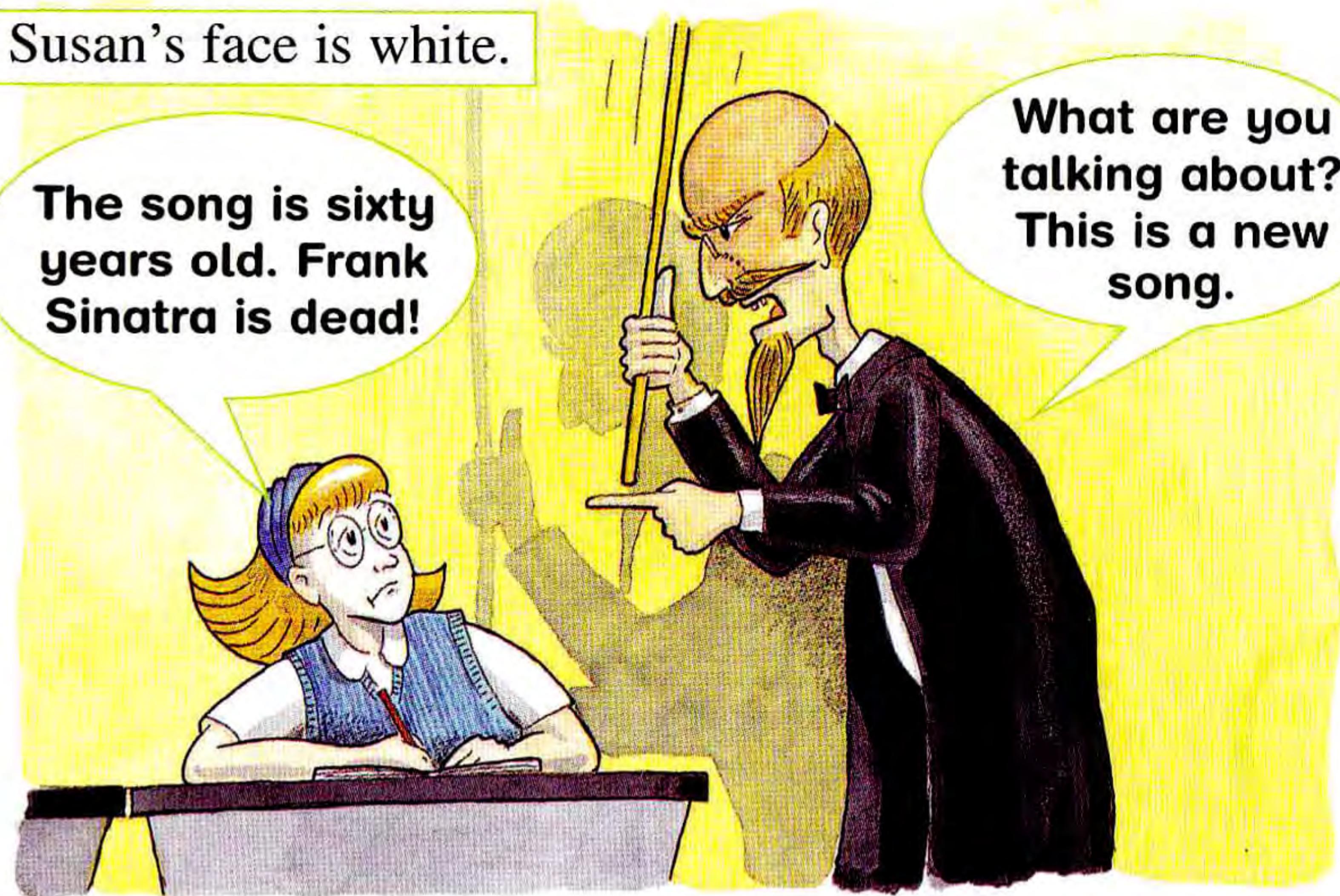
Mr Brown looks at Susan. “What? More lies!” **shouts** Mr Brown.



Susan's face is white.

The song is sixty years old. Frank Sinatra is dead!

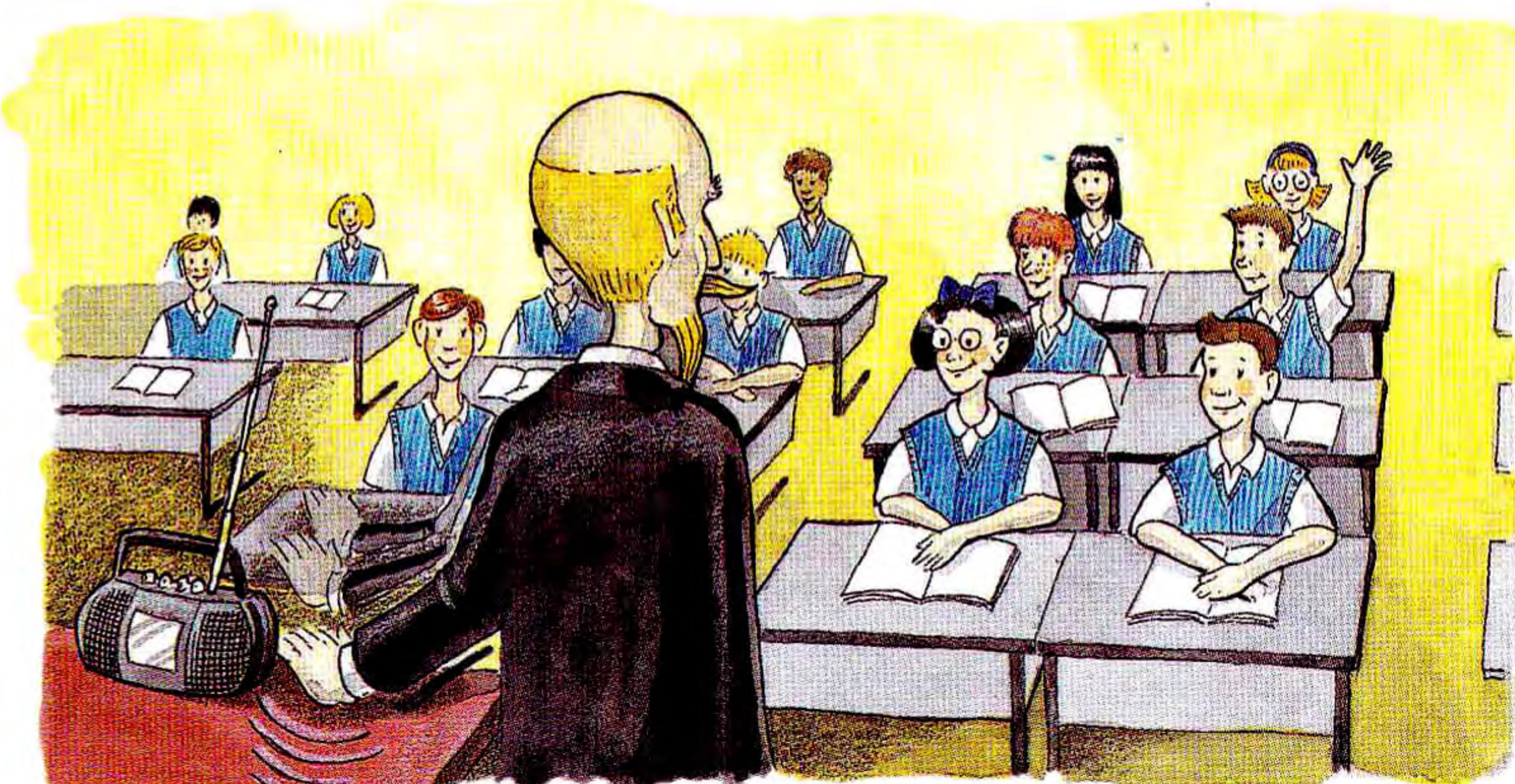
What are you talking about? This is a new song.



We're scared. Mr Brown looks at Susan and hits the table with his stick.

“Frank Sinatra isn’t dead,” says Mr Brown. “He’s only twenty years old. Don’t be stupid. Listen to the radio. Now Frank Sinatra is talking about his life. Listen and take notes.”

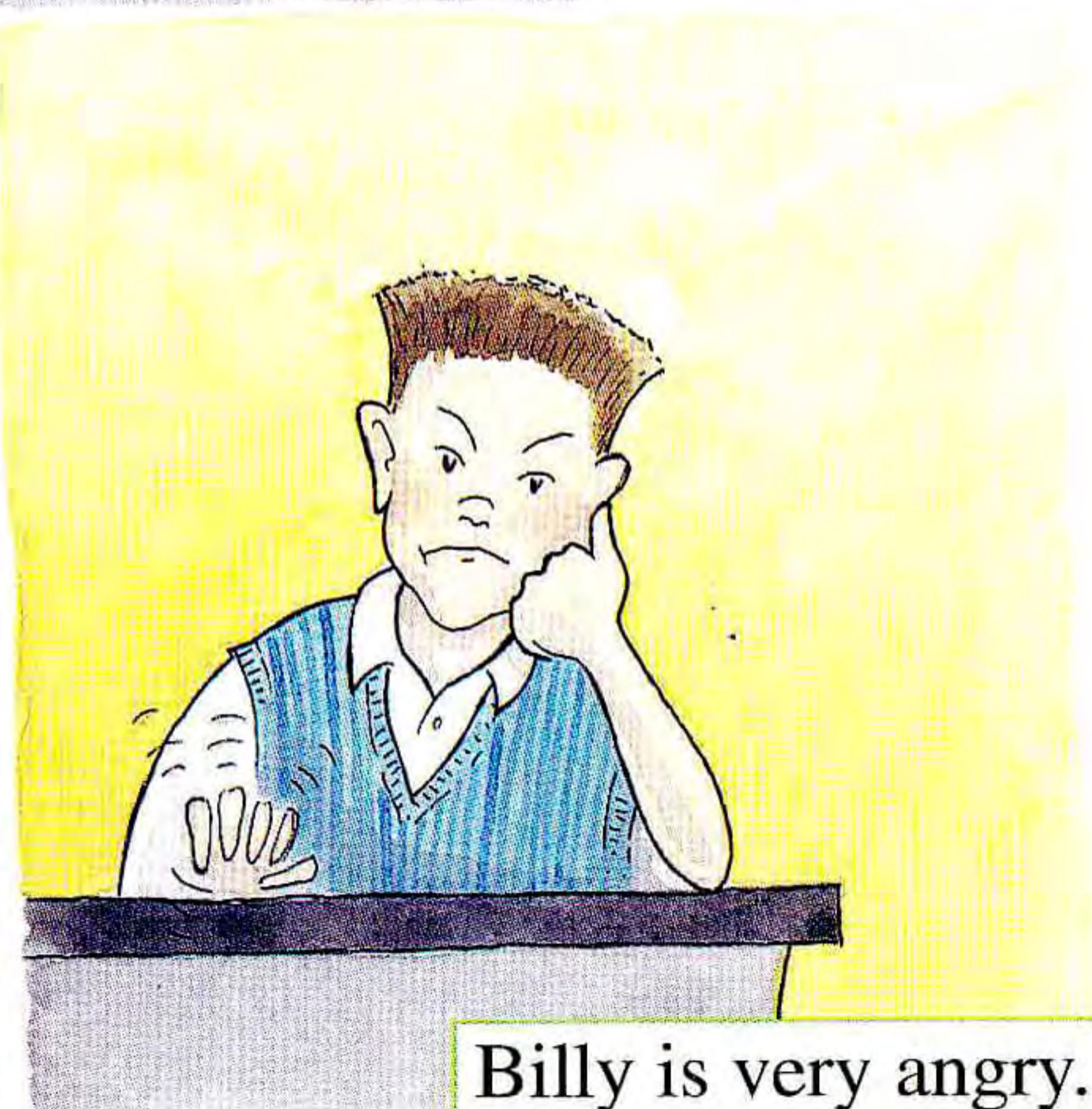
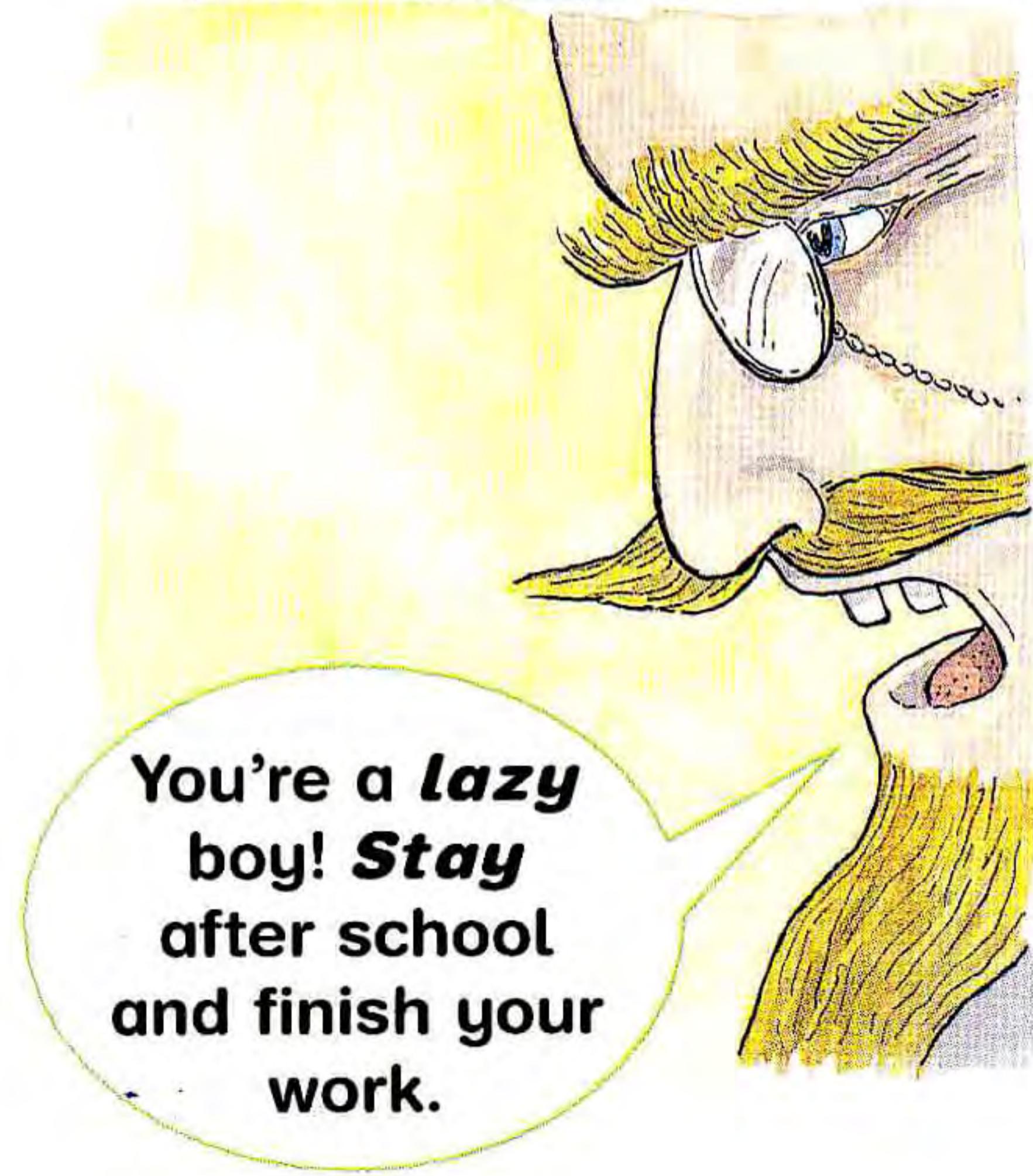
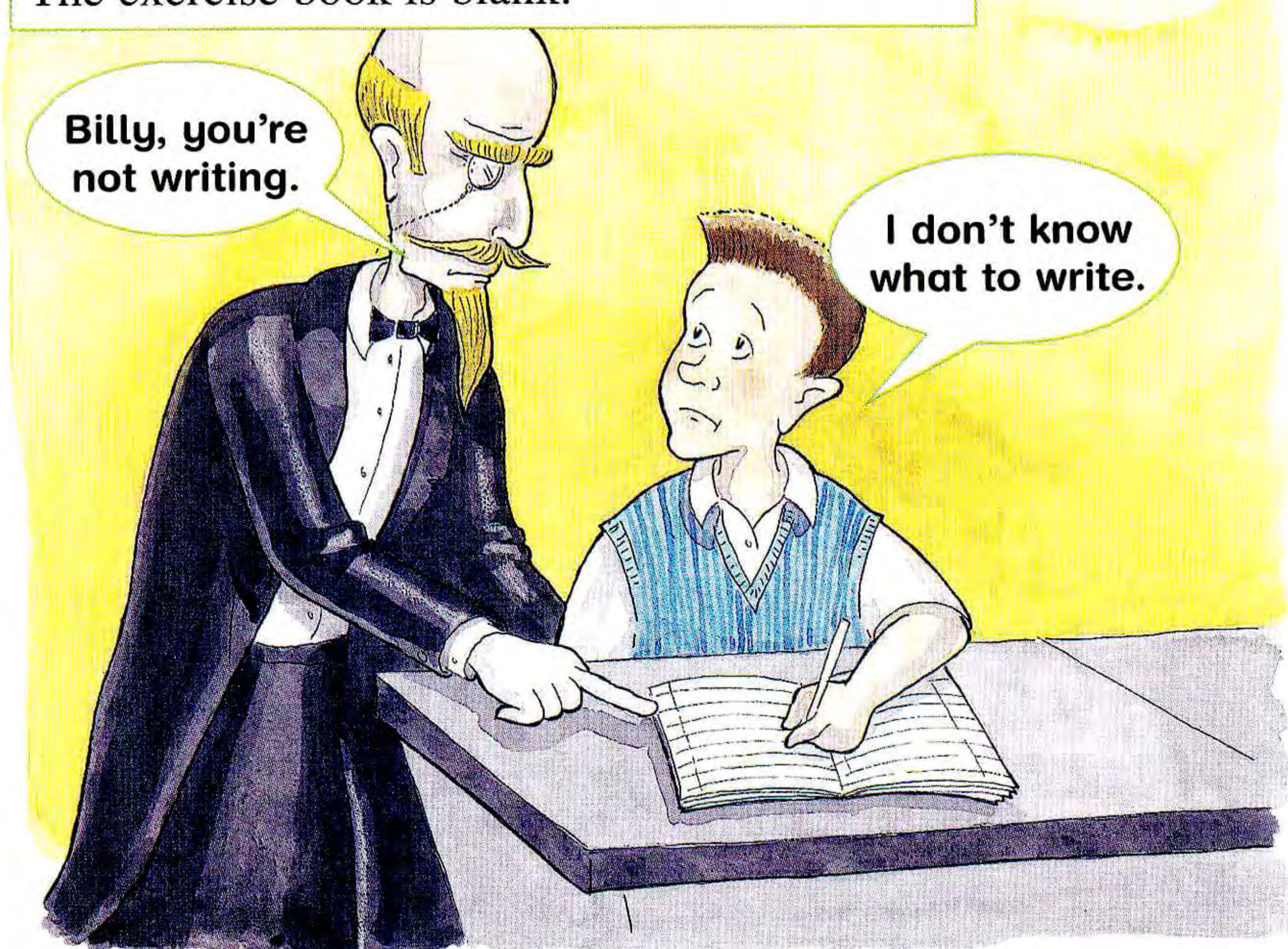
How many mistakes can you find in the picture?



THE GHOST TEACHER

We open our exercise books and start to write. "I don't understand," I think. "This is very strange."

Mr Brown looks at Billy Reed's exercise book. The exercise book is blank.





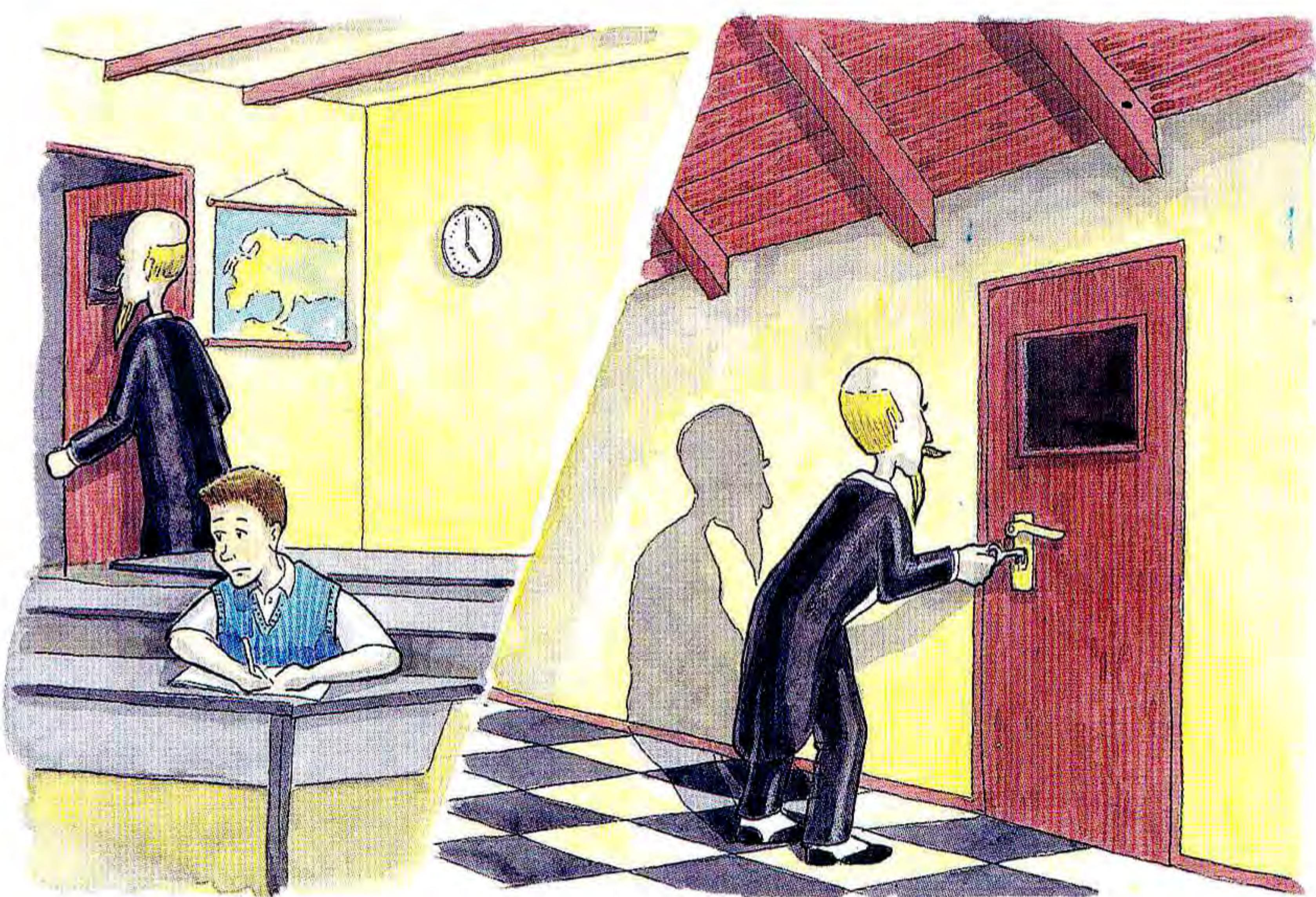
Chapter 3

We're all scared of Mr Brown. We have to work very hard and school isn't fun any more. There's something very strange about him. I want to know what it is.

After school, Billy stays and finishes his work. Mr Brown walks out of the classroom with the old radio. He goes to the part of the school that we don't use any more.

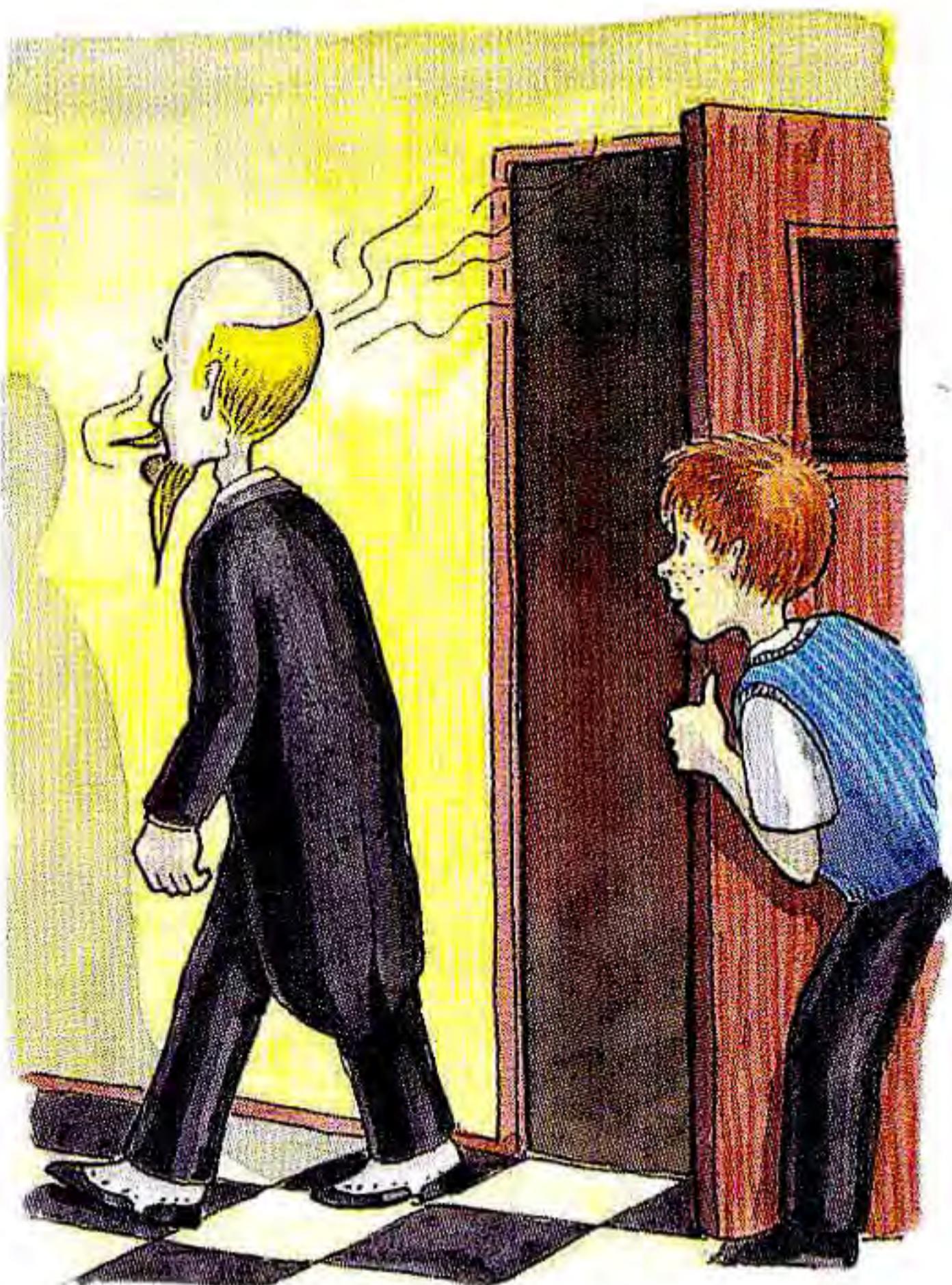
Mr Brown stops outside one of the rooms that are always locked. He's got an old *key* in his pocket. He opens the door and goes in.

Something is missing in the pictures. What is it?



After a few minutes Mr Brown comes out again. I stand behind the door and watch. Mr Brown goes to our classroom again. I decide to go into the room.

It's very dark in the room. There's a smell of smoke from Mr Brown's pipe. I can't find a *light switch*. There's a box of *matches* next to the door. I light one. The room is full of very old books and newspapers. There's a newspaper open on the table. I read the *headline*.





OLD TOWN DAILY NEWS

September 20, 1935

TEACHER AND STUDENT **DIE** AT WEST HILL SCHOOL



That's our school!

Suddenly, I'm scared. I look at the date on the newspaper. It's September 20th, 1935.

"Today is September 20th too," I think.

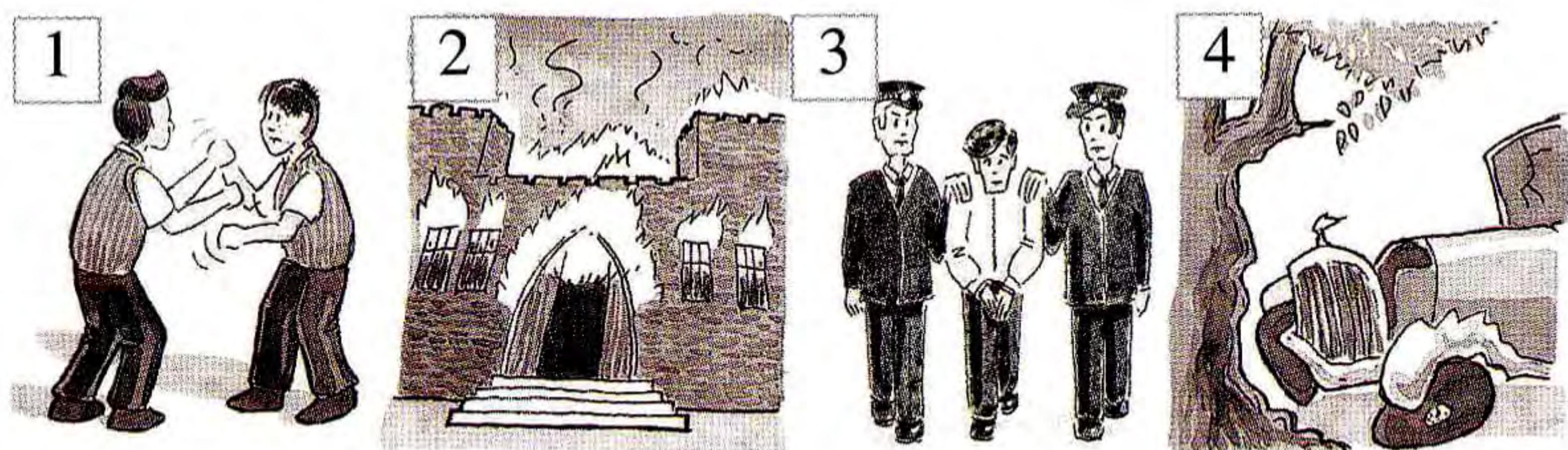
I take the newspaper and I start to read the article.

A student in class 2B **starts a fire** at West Hill School.

"We're in class 2B," I think.

I continue to read.

What is the article about? Choose the correct picture.



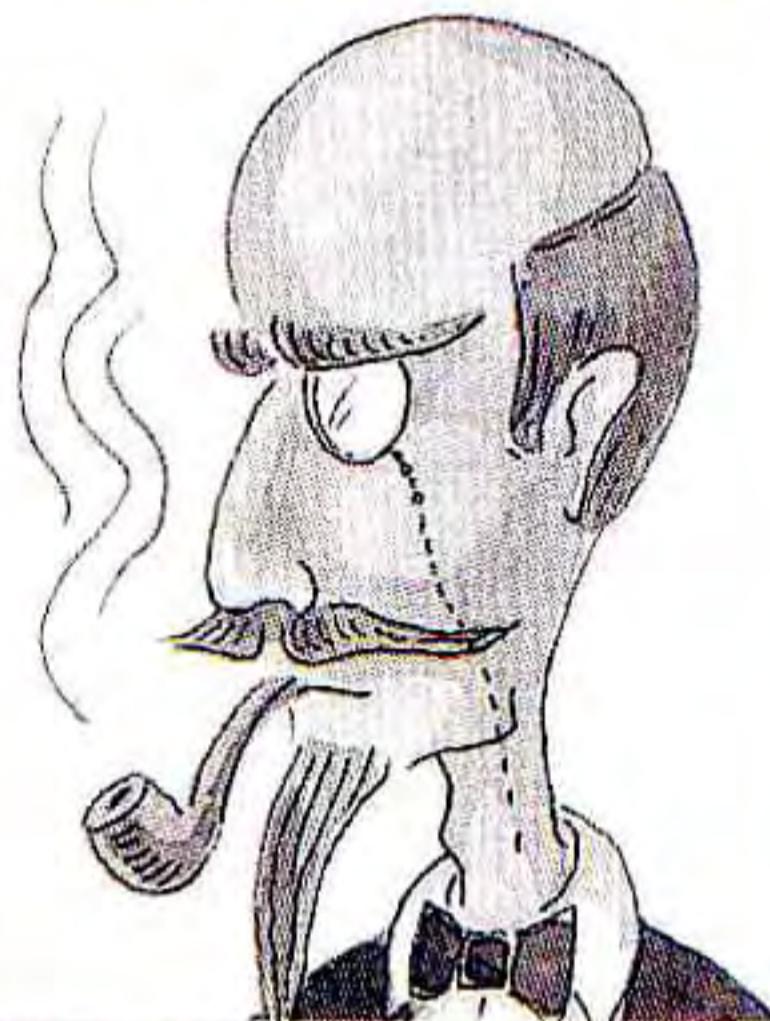
The teacher, Mr Arthur Brown, and Billy Reed, a student in his class, die in the fire.

The student's name
was **Billy Reed!**
It's incredible!



The fire at West Hill School started at about 5 o'clock. All the students were at home, except one ... Billy Reed. Billy was in his classroom with his teacher.

That was his **punishment** for coming to school late. There was a pipe and a box of matches next to Billy. The police think that Billy started the fire by accident with his teacher's pipe.



The teacher, Mr Brown



The student, Billy Reed

There are pictures of Mr Brown and Billy. Mr Brown looks exactly the same, but this Billy is different: He's got very short hair, and he's wearing a dark jacket and a school tie. I'm scared. The newspaper falls from my hand.



Chapter 4

Suddenly I smell smoke.

I run out of the room and I run to our classroom. The corridor is full of smoke. Mr Wilson, the caretaker, is in the corridor. I shout to him.



Mr Wilson doesn't move. His face is strange. He says nothing. There's a box of matches in his hand.

**Mr Wilson, please!
Help me get Billy and
Mr Brown out of the
classroom.**

Mr Wilson doesn't move.

I run to the *fire extinguisher*. I take off my shoe and *break* the glass. The fire alarm rings. I take the extinguisher and run to the classroom. The door is locked. I run to Mr Wilson.

“Where’s the key?” I shout.

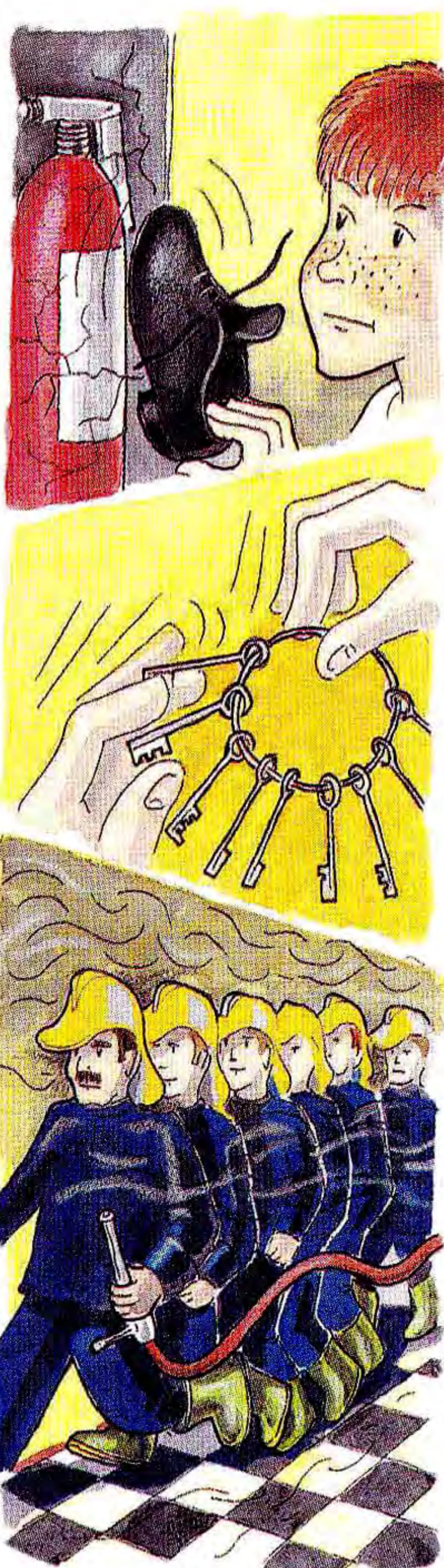
He doesn’t answer.

There are some keys on Mr Wilson’s *belt*. I pull the keys from him and run to open the door. I find the right key. The door opens. The room is full of smoke.

Six firemen run down the corridor. They’re wearing special clothes and they’re carrying special equipment.

“Who’s in there?” a fireman asks.

“My friend, Billy Reed, and our teacher, Mr Brown,” I answer.



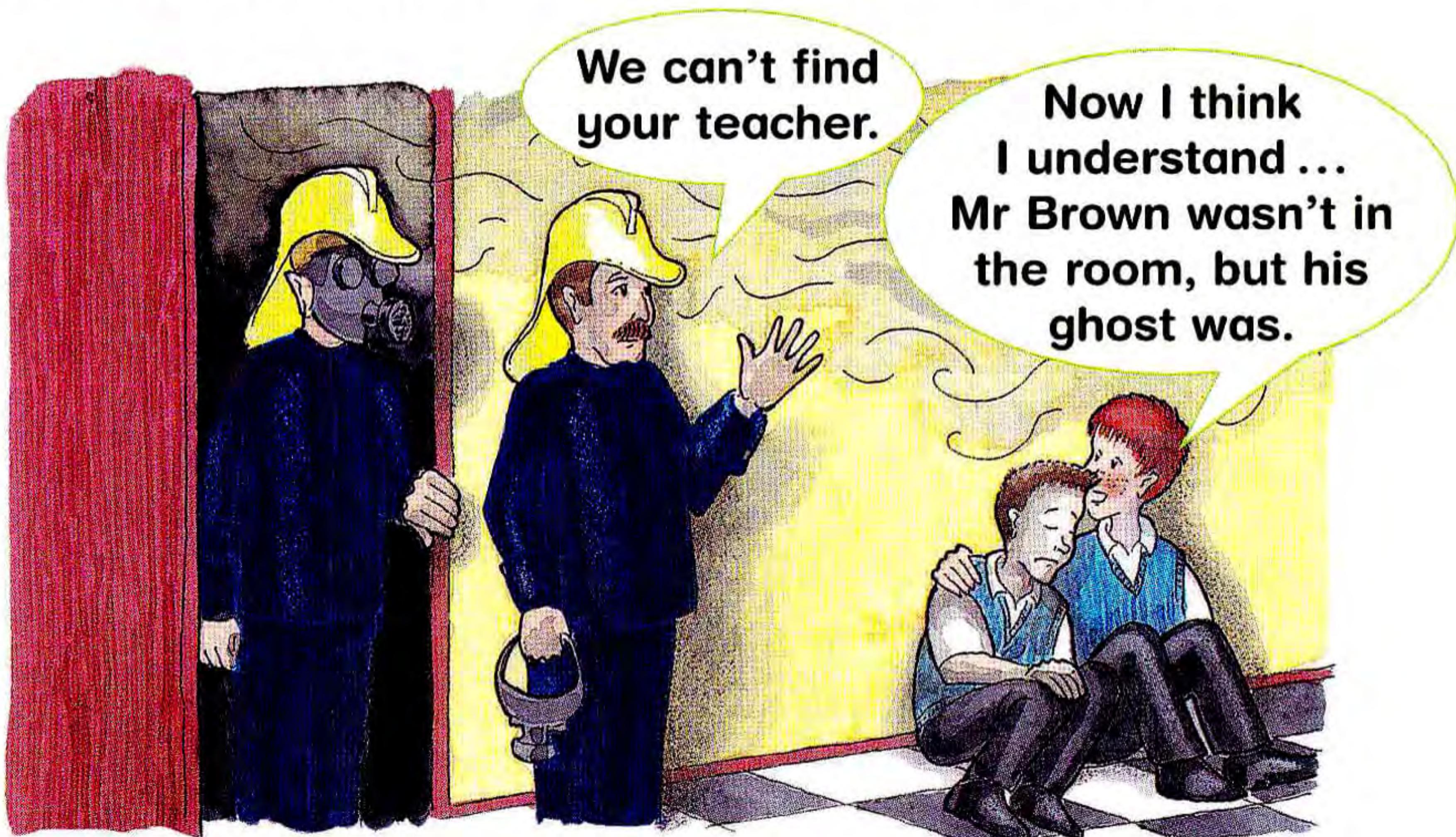
Who is in the classroom?



THE GHOST TEACHER



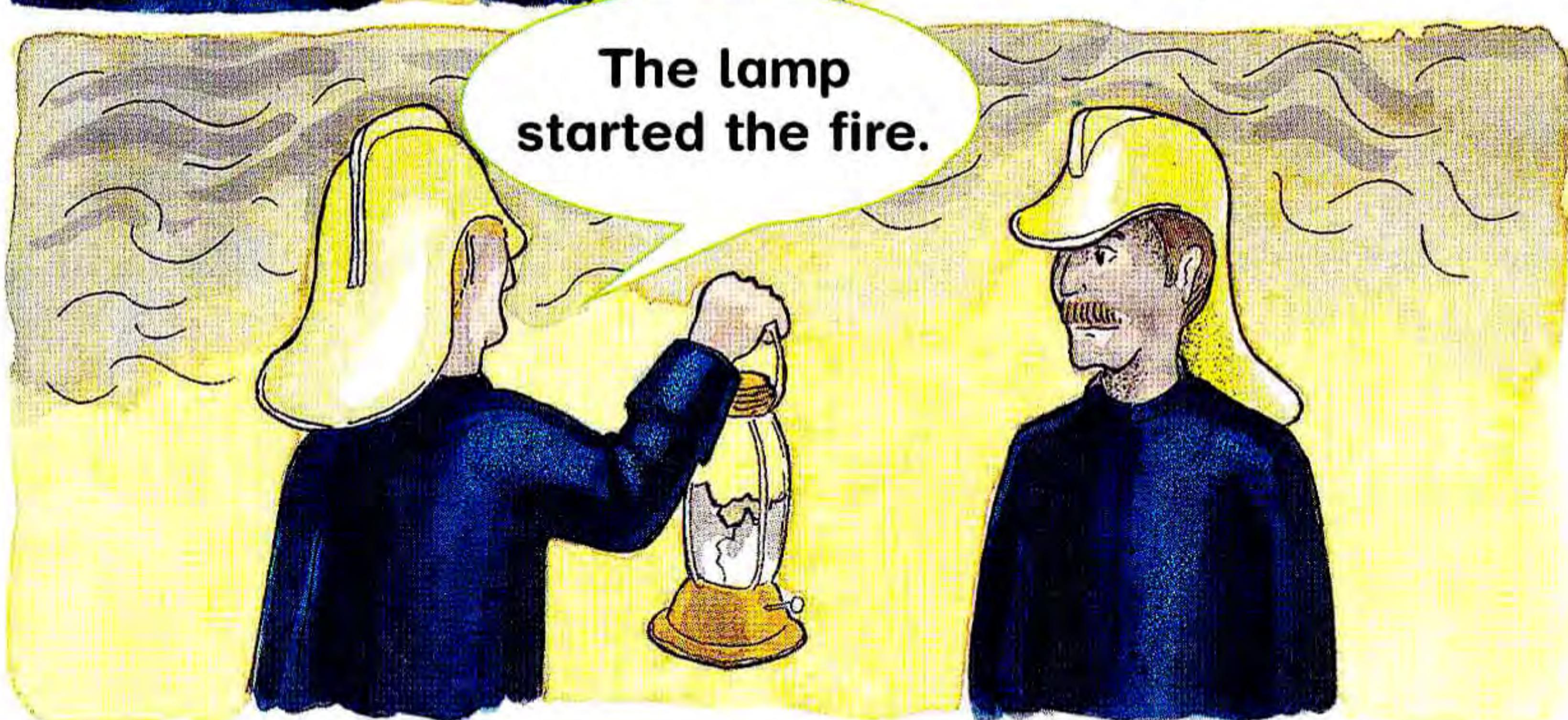
Three firemen run into the room. Two minutes later, a fireman comes out with Billy. Billy is alive. He sits on the floor and *coughs*. Then the other firemen come out.



The firemen look at each other.



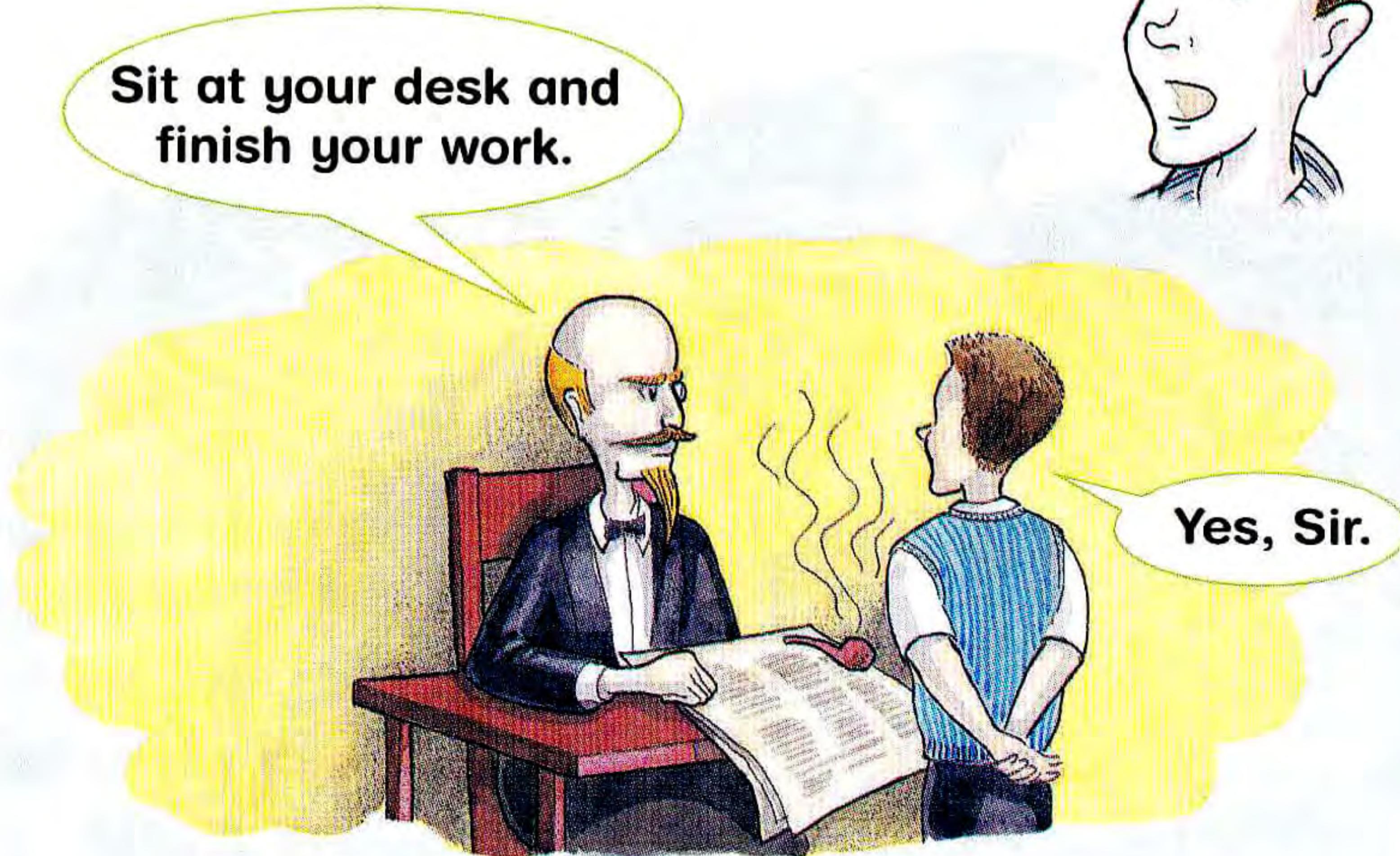
After the firemen put out the fire, they examine the classroom. They find Mr Wilson's oil lamp.



Chapter 5

The next day, I visit Billy in hospital. “What **happened** in the classroom yesterday?” I ask him.

Billy tells me what happened:



“Mr Brown sits at his table and smokes his pipe. After half an hour he puts out the pipe and he **goes to sleep**.

“Mr Wilson comes into the classroom. He’s got his oil lamp in his hand. He’s very angry.

“Mr Wilson throws the oil lamp into the room and closes the door. The fire moves very fast. I run to the window to get air.”



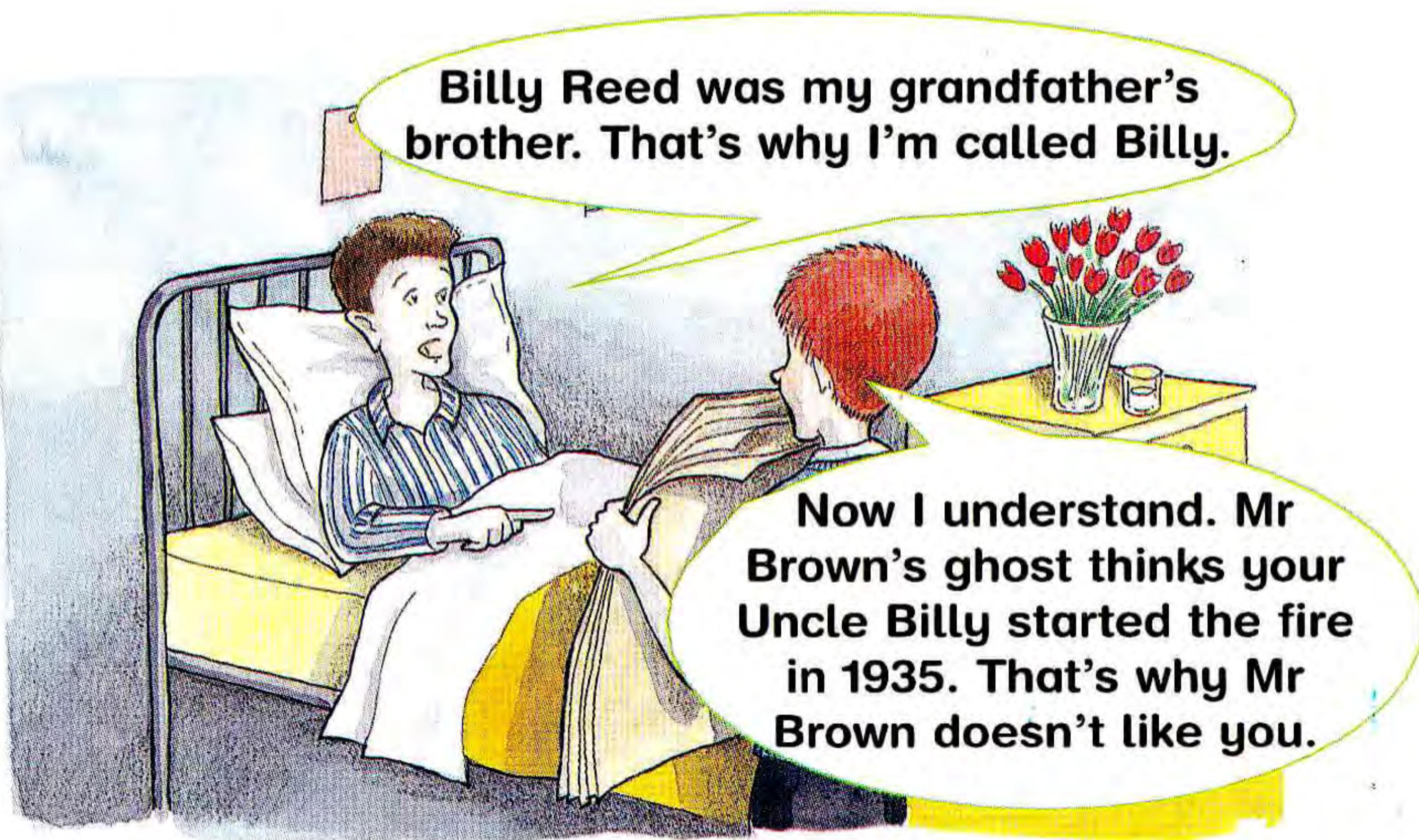


“Mr Wilson *threw* an oil lamp into the room. Why?”

“I don’t know,” Billy answers.

“I know something!” I say. “Mr Brown isn’t real. He’s a ghost!”

I show Billy the newspaper article about the fire in 1935. Billy reads about Mr Brown and the other Billy Reed. Billy’s face is white.



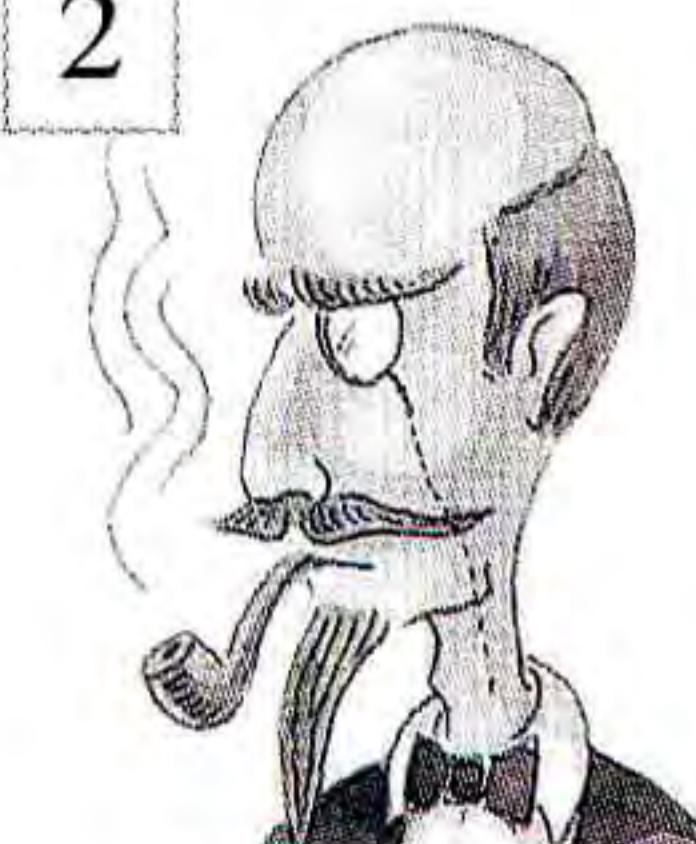
“Yes, I think you’re right,” says Billy. “But Mr Wilson started the fire yesterday. Why?”

Who started the fire in 1935?

1



2



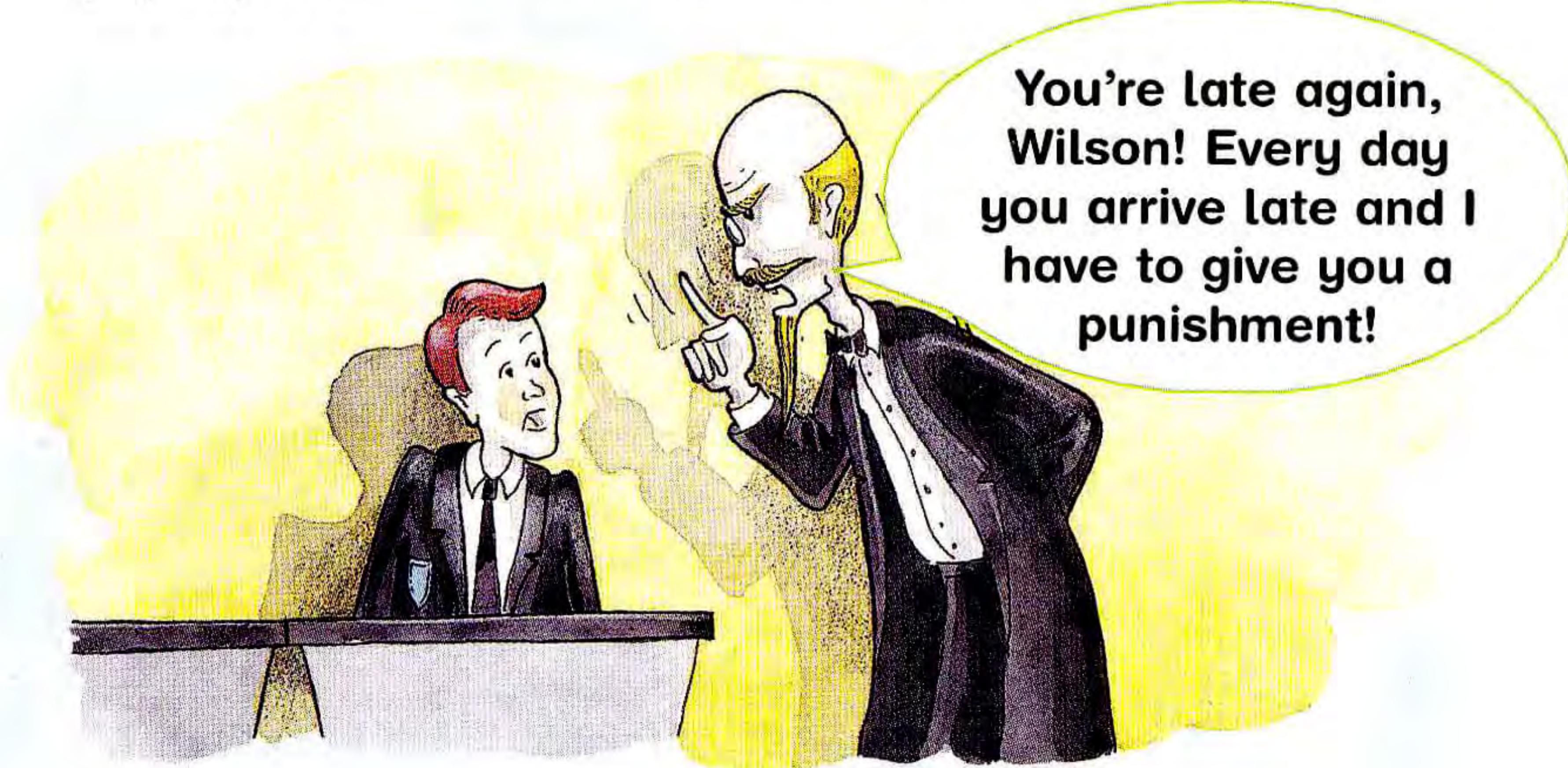
3





Chapter 6

The police talk to Mr Wilson. Mr Wilson remembers when he was a student in Mr Brown's class in 1935.



“One day, I see Mr Brown in the classroom. I think Mr Brown is alone. I don’t know that Billy is there. I start a fire in the classroom with an oil lamp.

“Now, sixty years later, I see Mr Brown in our school again. I’m scared. I hate Mr Brown. I start another fire.”



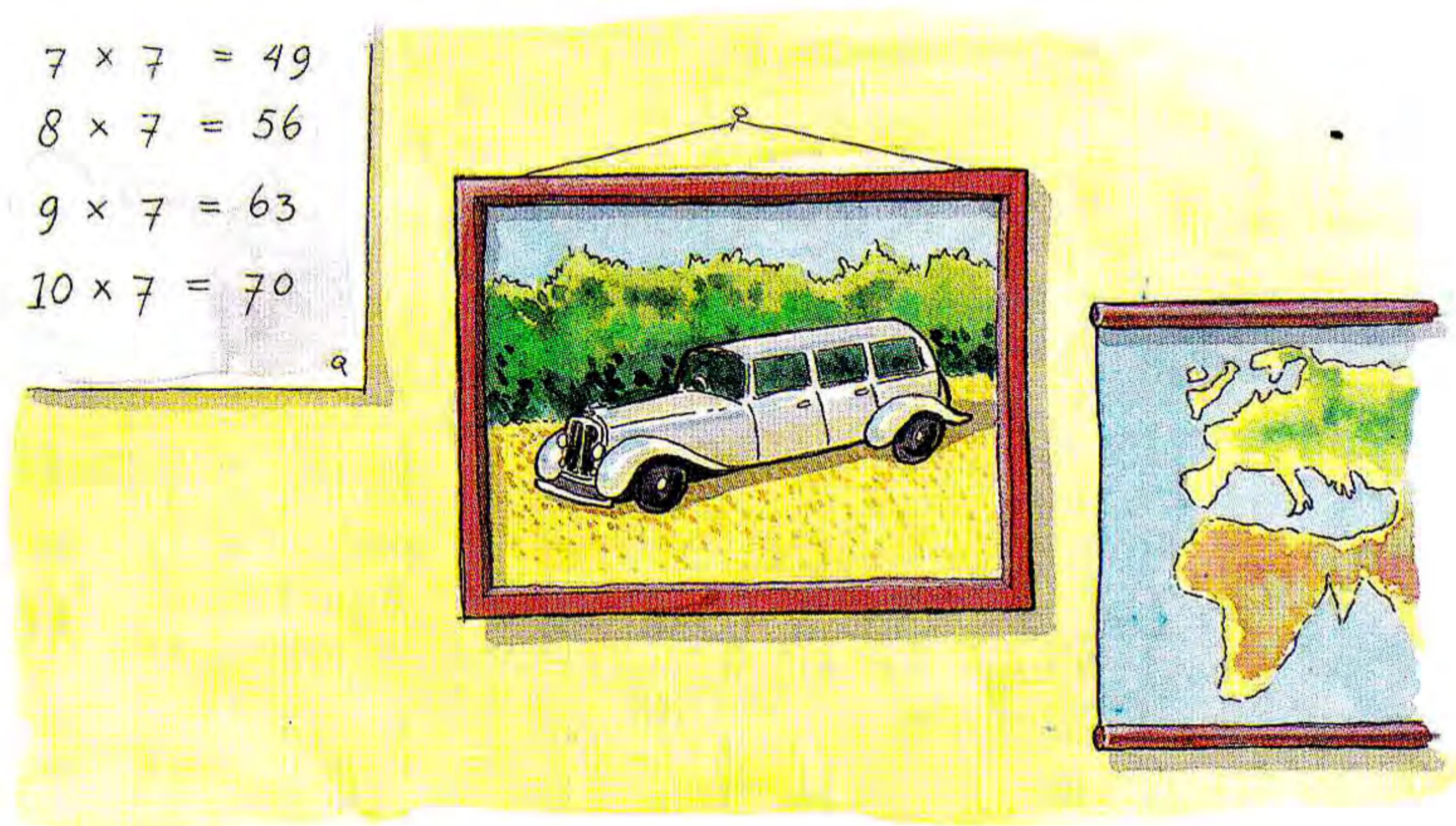
Epilogue

After the fire, Mr Brown's ghost visits us one more time. It's the day that Billy comes back to school. When we go into the classroom, we smell the smoke from Mr Brown's pipe. Mr Brown isn't in the classroom, but there's some writing on the blackboard. It's Mr Brown's writing. It says:

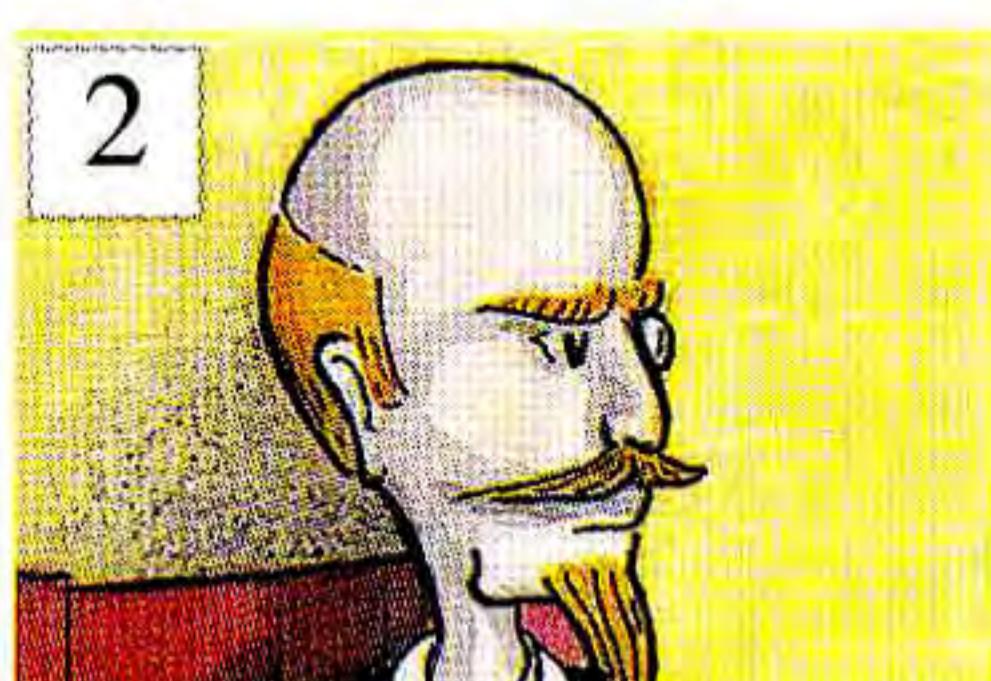
I'm sorry, Billy.
Now I know what happened.

We never see Mr Brown again, but we've got a picture of the silver Phantom on the wall of our classroom.

$$\begin{aligned}7 \times 7 &= 49 \\8 \times 7 &= 56 \\9 \times 7 &= 63 \\10 \times 7 &= 70\end{aligned}$$



Who leaves a message for Billy?



GLOSSARY

English	Castellano	Català
ago	hace	fa
belt	cinturón	cinturó
break	rompo	trencó
caretaker	conserje	conserge
corridor	pasillo	passadís
coughs	tose	tus
crazy	loco	boig
dead	muertos	morts
designers	diseñadores (de coches)	dissenyadors (de cotxes)
die	mueren	moren
don't lie	no mientas	no menteixis
falls	le cae	li cau
fire extinguisher	extintor	extintor
gets out of	sale de	surt de
goes to sleep	se queda dormido	es queda adormit
happened	sucedió	va succeir
hate	odiamos	odiem
headline	titular	titular
help!	¡ayuda!	auxili!
hits	golpea	dóna un cop
hurts	duele	fa mal
ill	enferma	malalta
is scared of	tiene miedo de	té por de
key	llave	clau
lazy	vago	gandul
light switch	interruptor de la luz	interruptor del llum

GLOSSARY

English	Euskara	Galego
ago	duela	hai
belt	gerrikoa	cinto
break	hausten dut	escachizo
caretaker	giltzaina, etxezaina	conserxe
corridor	pasabidea	corredor
coughs	eztul egiten du	tose
crazy	zoroa	tolo
dead	hilak, hilda	mortos
designers	eredugileak	deseñadores (de coches)
die	hil dira	morren
don't lie	ez esan gezurrik	non mintas
falls	erortzen zaio	cáelle
fire extinguisher	su-itzalgarria	extintor
gets out of	irteten da	sae de
goes to sleep	lo hartzen du	queda durmido
happened	gertatu da	sucedeu
hate	gorrotatzen dugu	odiamos
headline	lerroburua	titular
help!	lagundu!	¡axuda!
hits	jotzen du	peta
hurts	min egiten du	doe
ill	eri, gaixo	doente
is scared of	-ren beldur da	ten medo de
key	giltza	chave
lazy	nagia, alferra	lacazán
light switch	argiaren giltza	interruptor da luz

GLOSSARY

English	Castellano	Català
locks	cierra con llave	tanca amb clau
matches	cerillas	llumins
punishment	castigo	càstig
revenge	venganza	venjança
rows	filas	files
seat	asiento	seient
shouts	grita	crida
smell of smoke	olor a humo	olor a fum
starts a fire	provoca un incendio	provoca un incendi
stay	quédate	queda't
stick	bastón / vara	bastó / vara
takes me for a drive	me lleva de paseo	em porta a passejar
taps	da golpecitos (con)	dóna copets (amb)
threw	arrojó	va llençar
throws	le tira	li llença
wood	madera	fusta
you're late	llegas tarde	arribes tard

GLOSSARY

English	Euskara	Galego
locks	giltzatzen ditu	pecha con chave
matches	pospoloak	mistos
punishment	zigorra	castigo
revenge	mendekua	vinganza
rows	errenkadak	ringleiras
seat	eserlekua	asento
shouts	oihukatzen du	berra
smell of smoke	ke-usaina	olor a fume
starts a fire	sute bat sortarazi du	provoca un incendio
stay	gelditu, geratu	quédate
stick	makila	bastón / vara
takes me for a drive	paseatzera eramaten nau	lévame de paseo
taps	eriez / hatzez jotzen du	dá golpiños (con)
threw	jaurti zuen	guindou
throws	jaurtitzen dio	tíralle
wood	egurra	madeira
you're late	berandu zatoz	chegas tarde

West Hill School is a normal school.

One day a new teacher arrives

and some very strange things

start to happen.

Who is the mysterious teacher?

And why is he at West Hill School?

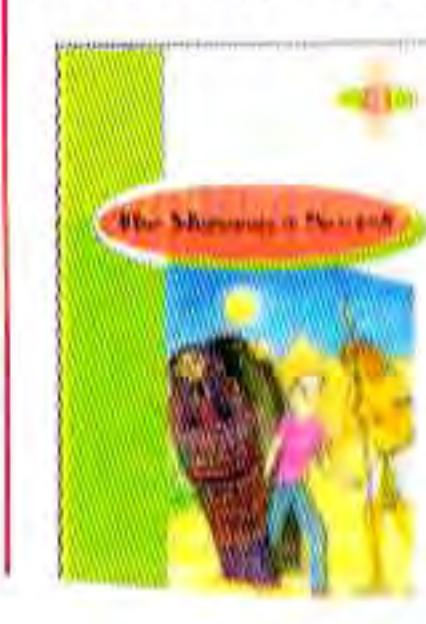


This Burlington Reader is part of a series of carefully graded readers specially designed for Spain.

Other Original Stories for this Level

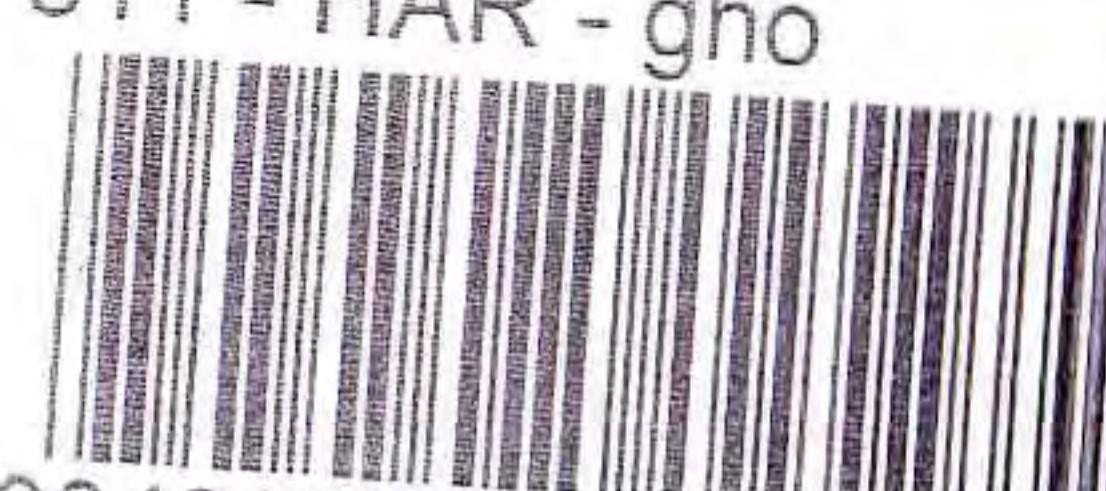


Saving Copper



's Secret

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Message in the Sky