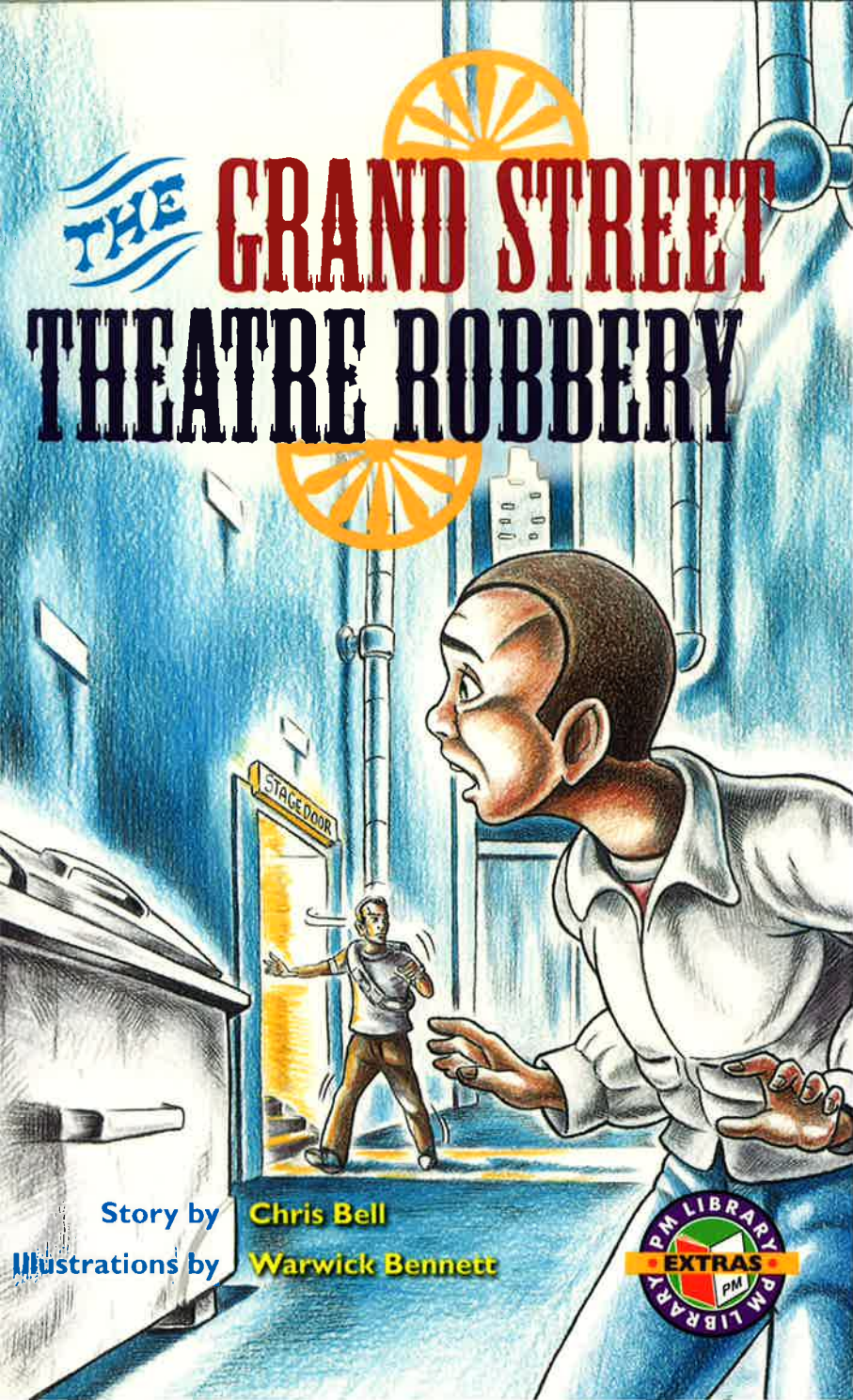
THE GRAND STREET THEATRE ROBBERY



Story by Chris Bell
Illustrations by Warwick Bennett

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The Grand Street Theatre Robbery

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Key vocabulary

fumbled, retreating, fidgeting, rehearse, elevator, apartment, accents, imagining, theatre, adjoining, suspicious, reflection, fierce, convincing, amateur, intently, nudged, disguise, pretend, drastic

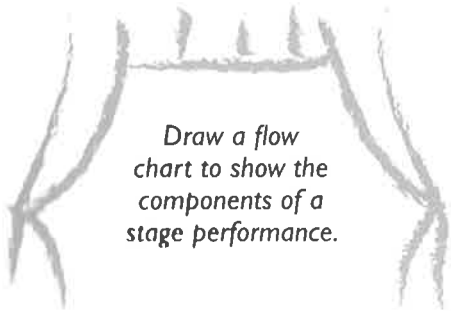
Grammatical conventions

- Complex sentence structure
- Adverbs: loudly, nervously, intently
- Commas – pausing to show expression in reading
- Exclamation marks – show expression
- Talking verbs: hissed, yelled, thundered, boomed
- Past tense verbs: moved, dashed, groaned

Spelling

- Adding prefixes: adjoining, retreating, regained
- Contractions: he'd, don't, he's, she'll, it's, I'll
- Doubling the last consonant before adding 'ing': getting, dropping, robbing, shopping, planning, tripping

Creative thinking task – Knowledge



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CHAPTER 1

STRANGE BEHAVIOUR



"Ssh! Did you hear that?" whispered Jed.

"What?" asked Rosie.

"Listen," said Jed, pointing at the wall of the adjoining apartment. He crept over and listened intently. Silence!

Why was it, wondered Jed, that he seemed to be the only one to hear Larry's strange behaviour?

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Larry had moved in next door a few months ago. He knew hundreds of great jokes, and he was fun to hang out with, thought Jed. It was just that Larry acted so… weird.

He came and went at odd hours of the day and night, and sometimes he wore really strange clothes and spoke in weird accents.



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When he first moved in, Larry told Dad he was a cleaner. That might explain the strange hours he kept. But Jed had never heard of a cleaner wearing fancy dress to work!

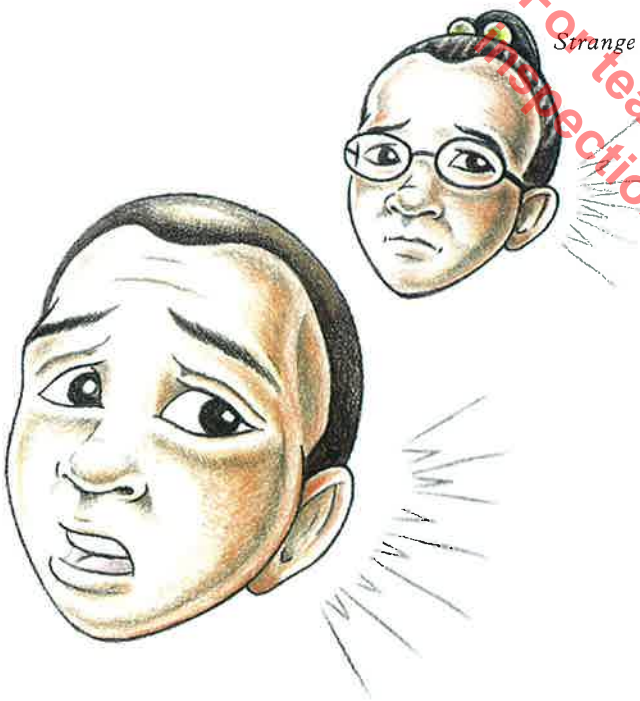
And that wasn't the weirdest part.

Larry always seemed to be talking to someone in his apartment – loudly! Yet, as far as Jed could tell, Larry lived alone.

Something very odd seemed to be going on next door.



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"Listen! There he goes again," said Jed.

This time Rosie listened with her ear against the wall. She grinned at Jed and started giggling. "You're right. He *is* talking to himself."

Jed held his finger over his lips. "Ssh! I can't hear what he's saying."

A muffled voice came through the wall.

"Stand and deliver, Sir. Hand over all your money and valuables."

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Jed and Rosie looked at one another with wide eyes.

"Maybe that's why he acts so strange," said Jed. "He's really a robber."

"Don't be silly," said Rosie. "He's a cleaner."

This time the voice boomed through the wall. "This is not a game. Give me all your money – now!"

Startled, Jed and Rosie jumped.

"See, I told you," said Jed, looking pleased with himself. "He must be a robber."



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"Why would he be robbing someone in his own apartment?" asked Rosie.

"No, silly," said Jed. "He's practising now for when he does a *real* robbery."

"Put your hands in the air. This is a hold up!" thundered the voice through the wall.

Jed and Rosie looked at one another.

Jed whispered, "Sounds like he's getting ready for a big bank robbery or something. What do you think we should do?"

