# The Reading Bug

Sam and Ravi aren't really interested in reading. They prefer watching superhero cartoons! One night, during a *Team Superhero* marathon and sleepover, the boys wake up to see a huge shadow creeping over their tent. What could be it? Aliens? Mutated bugs? Sam and Ravi are going to find out!



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Book Band: Grey

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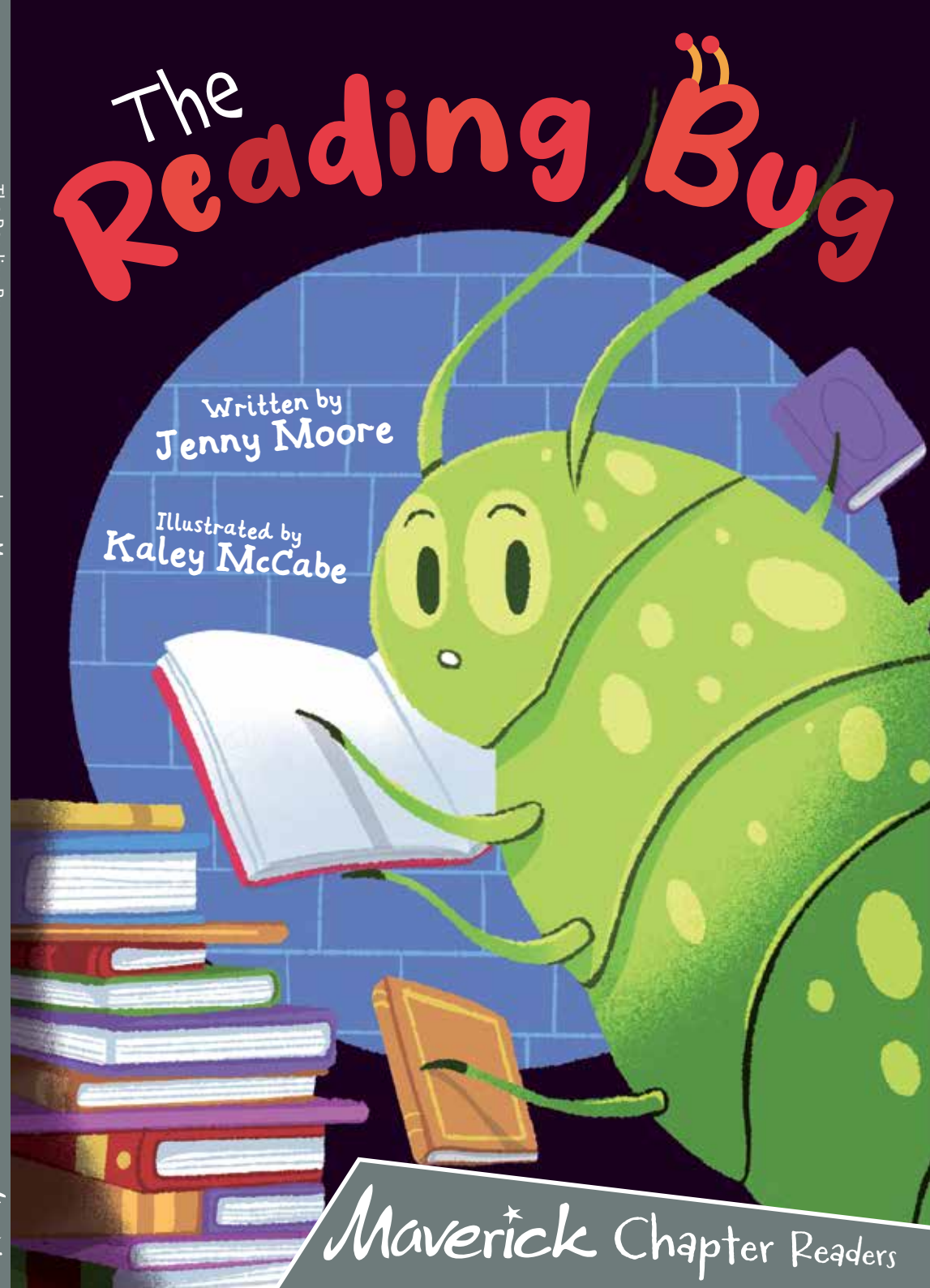
Jenny Moore

Maverick

# The Reading Bug

Written by
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Illustrated by
Kaley McCabe



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An original concept by Jenny Moore
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Illustrated by Kaley McCabe

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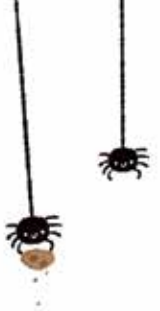
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# Chapter 1

Sam and Ravi couldn't wait for the summer holidays. Six whole weeks of freedom, starting with a sleepover in Sam's back garden! They just had to get through the boring end-of-term assembly first. The headmaster was droning on about doing lots of reading over the holidays.

*Reading?* thought Sam. *We do enough of that at school. Why would I want to spend my summer holidays stuck in a book when I could be having fun?* There certainly wouldn't be any reading at the sleepover! He and Ravi would be too busy watching superhero cartoons and eating sweets and chocolate. Sam's mouth watered at the thought of all those sugary treats.

"Psst!" He nudged Ravi with his elbow. "Did I tell you I've got a giant pack of Fizzy Raspberry Rockets for tonight?" he whispered. "Plus three tubes of Cola Chew-Chews and four Chocolate Caramel Frogs. What about you? What are you going to bring?"



"I've still got some of those Sherbet Explosions my dad got me from America," Ravi whispered back. "And Mum's bought me a huge bag of popcorn and some of those new pizza-flavoured crisps."

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"Pizza crisps? Wow, they sound awesome," said Sam. "I can't wait to try them. We need to decide what cartoons we're going to watch too. How about—?" But Sam didn't get to finish the sentence. He was interrupted by a stern '*shush*' from their teacher.

"Stop talking you two, and listen," she said. "Mrs Page has kindly given up her time to come and talk to us. The least you can do is listen politely."

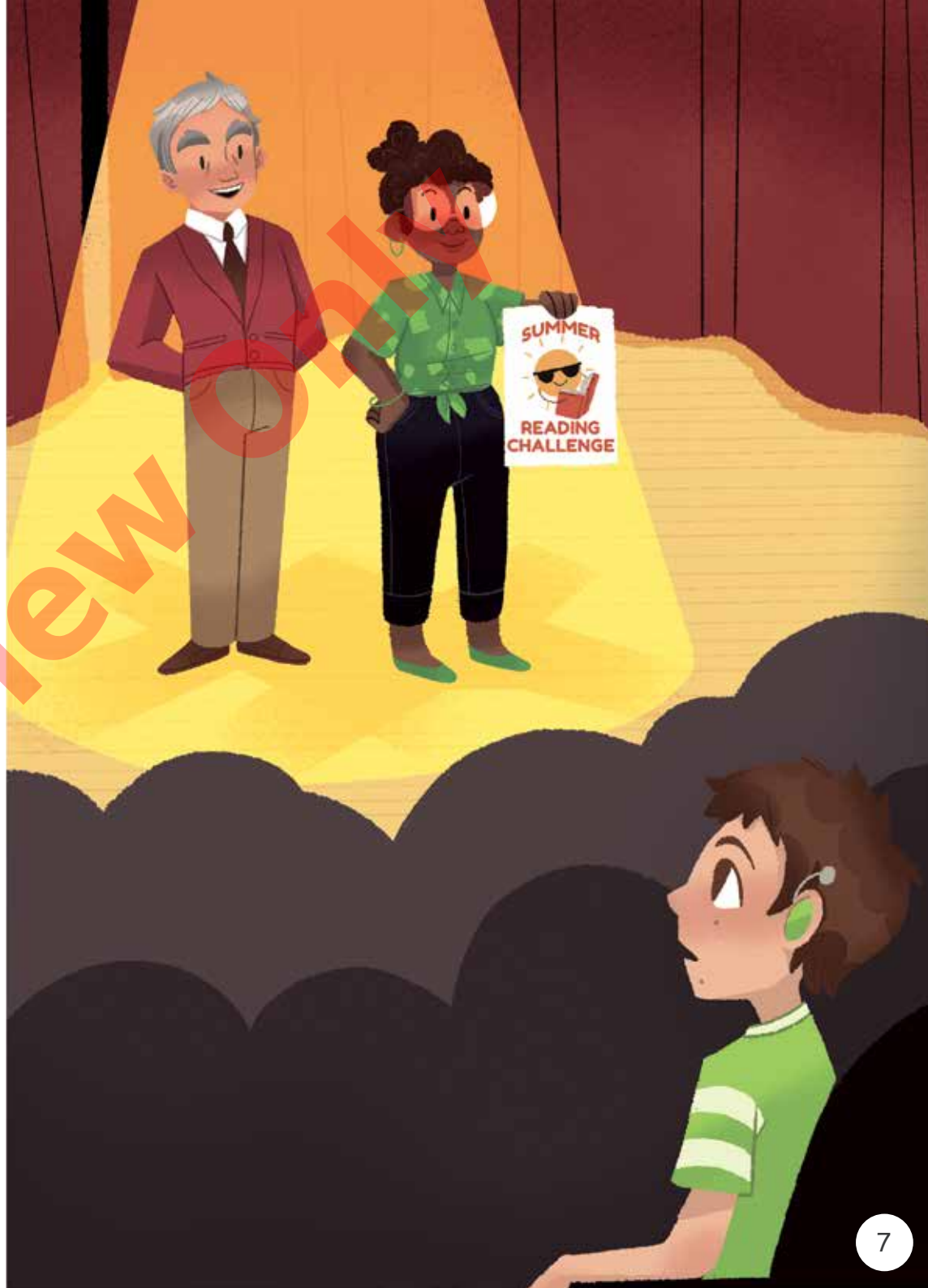
"Mrs Page?" Sam repeated. "Who's she?"

"She's the new librarian at the town library," said his teacher. "You'd know that if you were listening."

Sam glanced back to the front of the hall. The headmaster had finished talking now, and a lady in a bright green blouse was holding up a poster about the Summer Reading Challenge.

*That must be Mrs Page*, Sam thought, wondering why she looked so familiar. She had dark hair tied up in a bun, and funny round glasses that made her eyes look really big—like bug eyes! Sam was sure he'd seen her

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somewhere before. But it couldn't be the library because he never went there!

"That sounds great, thank you Mrs Page," said the headmaster. "Hopefully we'll all be bitten by the reading bug this summer!"

Mrs Page blushed. "Well, er... yes," she said, suddenly lost for words. "I certainly hope we'll have lots of new reading fans anyway. Please do come along to the library and sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge, everyone. It's going to be such fun."

*Huh*, thought Sam. *A whole holiday reading books? That doesn't sound like much fun to me!*




# Chapter 2

Sam finished his dinner in record time. He couldn't wait to get out into the garden and set up camp for the night in the new tent. It looked amazing! But Ravi still had half a jacket potato left to eat. He was smiling politely as Sam's little sister, Gina, chattered on about the Summer Reading Challenge and how she couldn't wait to get started.

*Less smiling and more chewing,* thought Sam, willing his friend to hurry up.

"I met Mrs Page when I popped into the library this morning," said Sam's mum. "She seems very nice. It turns out she's moved into Mr Kay's old house down the road."

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