THE MUMBLEFOSSICK



Quentin Flynn

Simon Scales

Nelson Literacy Directions

NELSON
CENGAGE Learning

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Reading Age: 10.1–10.3
Text Type: Narrative

The Mumblefossick

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Written by Quentin Flynn
Illustrated by Simon Scales

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Meet the Characters



The Mumblefossick
A harmless lonely creature.



Sarah
A nine-year-old lost in the toy store.



A Cleaning Lady
A cleaner who works at night.



Emmaline
The mumblefossick's broken doll.

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Dear Reader

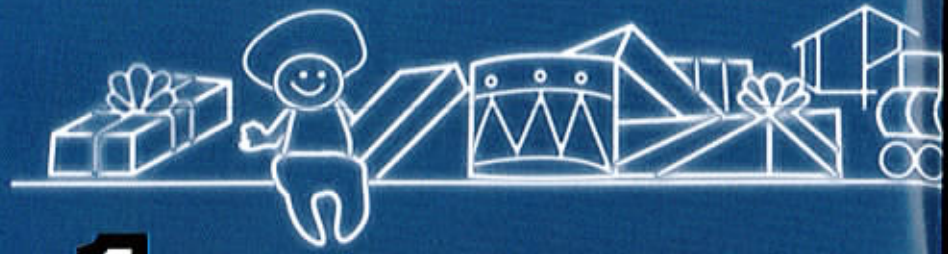
Here's a story about a creature who is terrified of people. But really, deep down, he's just lonely. One night, all that changes – and we find that, if they have a kind heart, even the loneliest of creatures can suddenly have more friends than they could have ever imagined!

Quentin Flynn
Author

Chumbleforts Toy Store



1. The mumblefossick's cupboard under the stairs
2. The escalator to the floor above
3. One of the toy store's departments



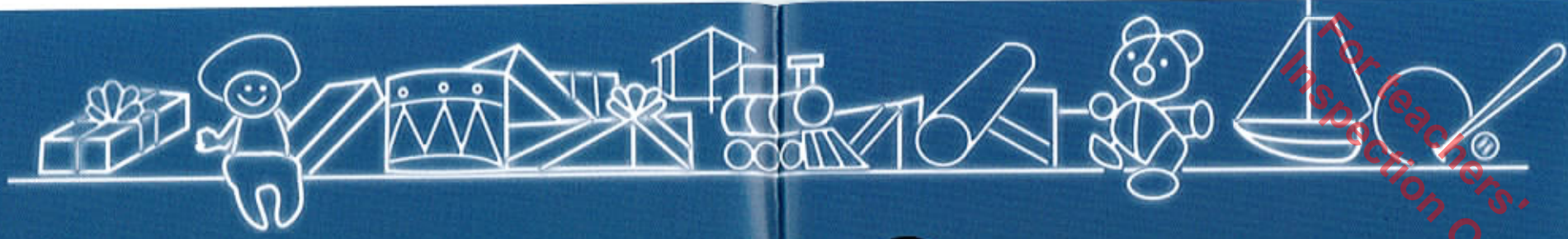
1 Prologue

The mumblefossick was a lonely creature. He lived in a cupboard under the stairs in Chumbleforts, the city's best-loved toy store.

His soft, white hair was neatly tied back. He wore a dark felt hat. Under his red jacket was a waistcoat of paper and string. Like his coat, the mumblefossick's nose was a little too big. But everything else was just as it should be.

The mumblefossick kept his lonely heart hidden. He could feel it, thumping sadly beneath his coat. But no one could see it; certainly not Emmaline, the china doll he loved. Nor Number One, the teddy to whom he told all his secrets.

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Every night, while the wind whistled outside the empty toy store, the mumblefossick did what he had done for many years: he searched for something his beloved Emmaline had lost a long, long time ago. Every night, he said the same thing to Number One. "Tonight we'll find it. I'm sure we will."

The mumblefossick told himself he was looking for a tiny piece of china. But the truth was he wanted to find something to fill the empty feeling in his heart.



2 Something Unusual

It was the first Thursday of autumn when the lonely mumblefossick's life changed.

It started out like a normal Thursday. He woke up. He remembered how he had first seen Emmaline many, many years ago, in the dolls department. He remembered children playing and knocking her off the shelf. He remembered watching helplessly as she tumbled, down, down, down, until she hit the floor, her beautiful face shattering into countless pieces.