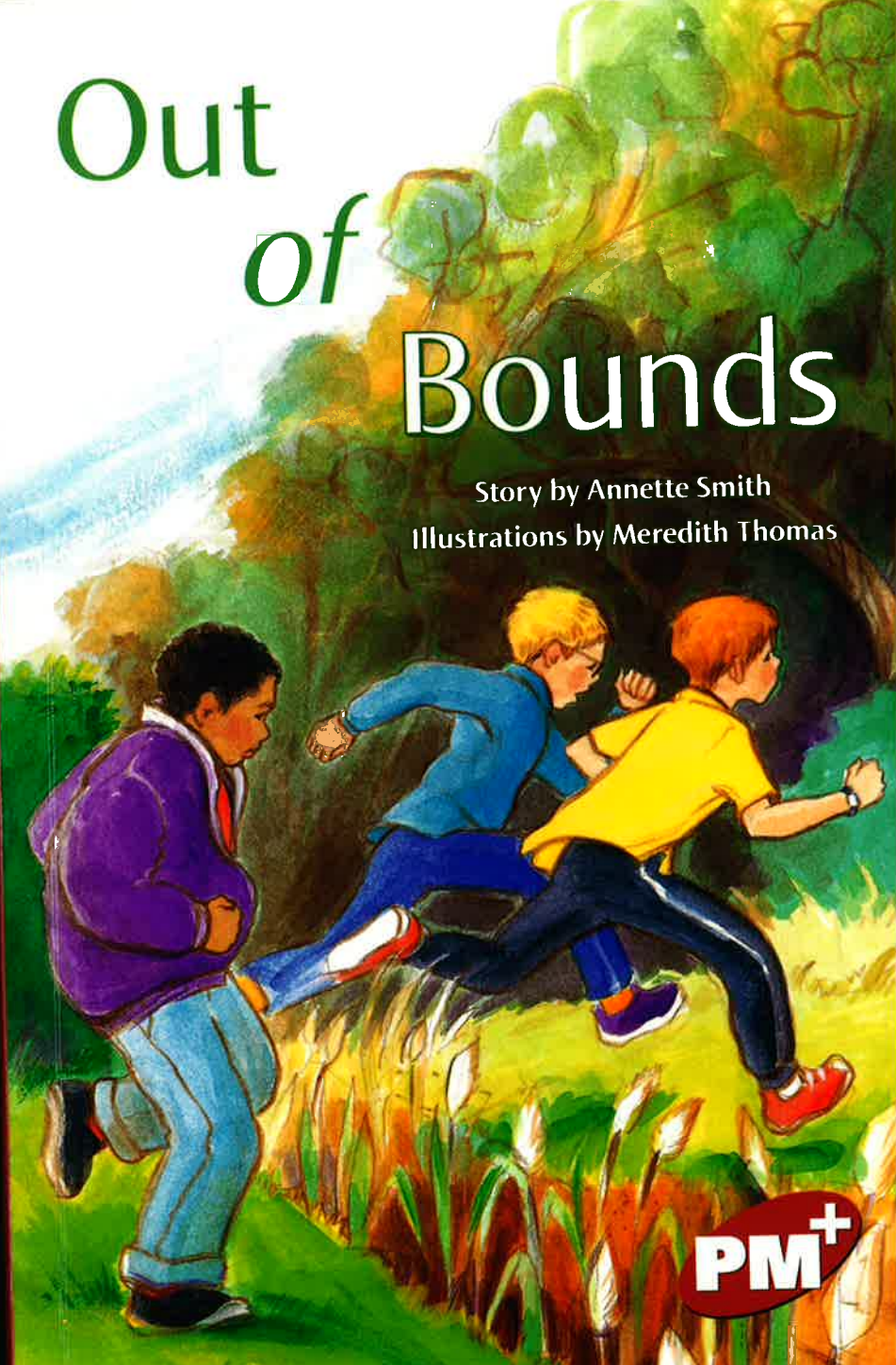
Out of Bounds

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Contents

Chapter 1	Rejection	4
Chapter 2	Disobeying the Rules	10
Chapter 3	Panic	16
Chapter 4	Finding a Way Out	20
Chapter 5	New Friends	28



Chapter 1

Rejection



"Come on, everyone!" called Ms Williams. "Gather around."

The children from Rooms 4 and 5 at Riverview School were staying overnight at a camp out in the country. They had been looking forward to the camp for weeks, and were very excited. This afternoon they were doing orienteering, and a concert had been planned for the evening.

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"Hurry up, Fatso!" yelled Greg. "We're all waiting for you."

A ripple of laughter went around the children as the new boy hurried over. Falo looked at Greg, but said nothing as he joined the others.

Ms Williams frowned disapprovingly at Greg, then she explained the afternoon's orienteering activity. "I've put you into teams of three," she said.

Cheers went up as each group was called and the children gathered together.

"Greg, Jon and Falo, you'll be together, and Jane, Indira and Sarah, you will make the final team."

Greg looked at Jon, then at Falo. "But Ms Williams," Greg protested, "Jon and I don't want that new kid in our team. He's too fat and slow. We'll never get around the course in good time with him tagging along! Why did you put him with us?"

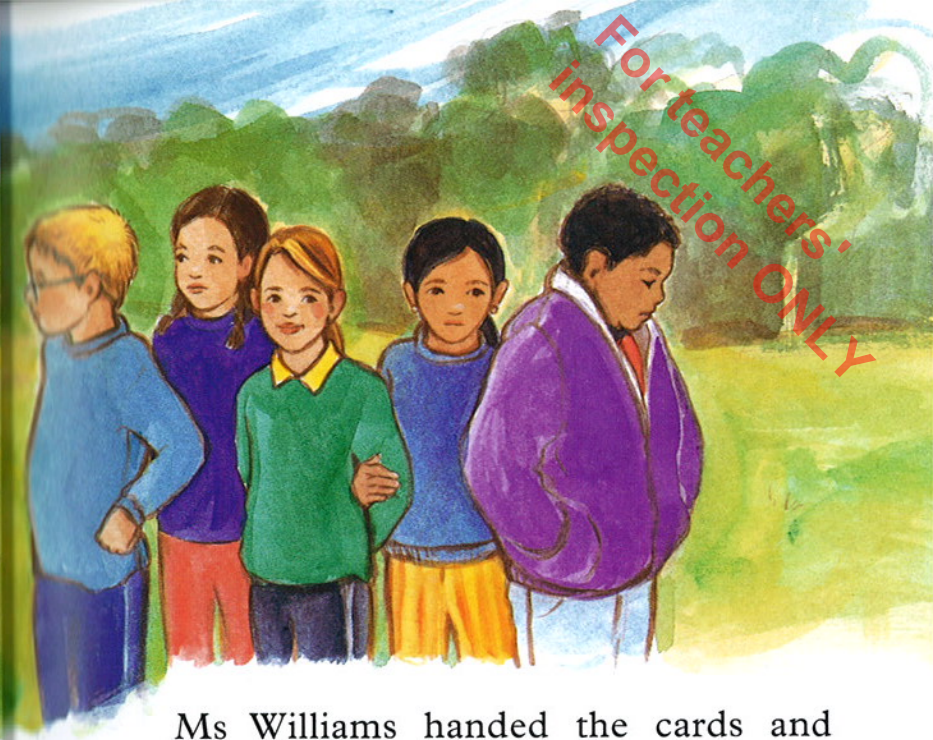


Falo shuffled his feet and looked away, embarrassed at the attention.

"Greg," said Ms Williams, firmly, "that sort of attitude will not be tolerated. Falo has never done orienteering before, and he needs to be with experienced team members."

Greg scowled at Falo. He and Jon were used to winning sports activities.

"Looks like we're stuck with him then," Greg muttered.



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Ms Williams handed the cards and maps to each team. "I must remind you that the bush is out of bounds," she said. "Nobody is to go into the bush. Now Jane, your team will leave first, followed by Greg's team. A teacher will be waiting at each checkpoint to sign your cards. Right, off you go."

When Ms Williams was out of earshot, Greg called, "Hey Fatso, get over here. You need the exercise, not us." Greg and Jon smirked as Falo came over to join them.

As soon as their team was called, Greg and Jon sprinted ahead. They ran across the field towards a hill in the distance, never once slowing down to include Falo.

Falo did his best to keep up. By the time he reached the top of the steep hill, Greg and Jon were nowhere in sight. He stopped to catch his breath. Should he turn back, or just tag along with the next group who were closing in rapidly?

Just then, Greg and Jon leapt out from behind some bushes. "What kept you?" yelled Jon. "We've been here for ages."

The next team waved and called out as they passed, "It looks as though you guys won't win this time! You've got a really slow team!"

Greg was beginning to get very annoyed. "I told you this would happen," he said to Jon, and then turned to Falo. "What are you going to do about it, Fatso?"

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"I'm doing my best," replied Falo. "It's just that you two are much faster runners than I am."

"Well, you'll have to try harder," sneered Greg, "because here comes another team!"

