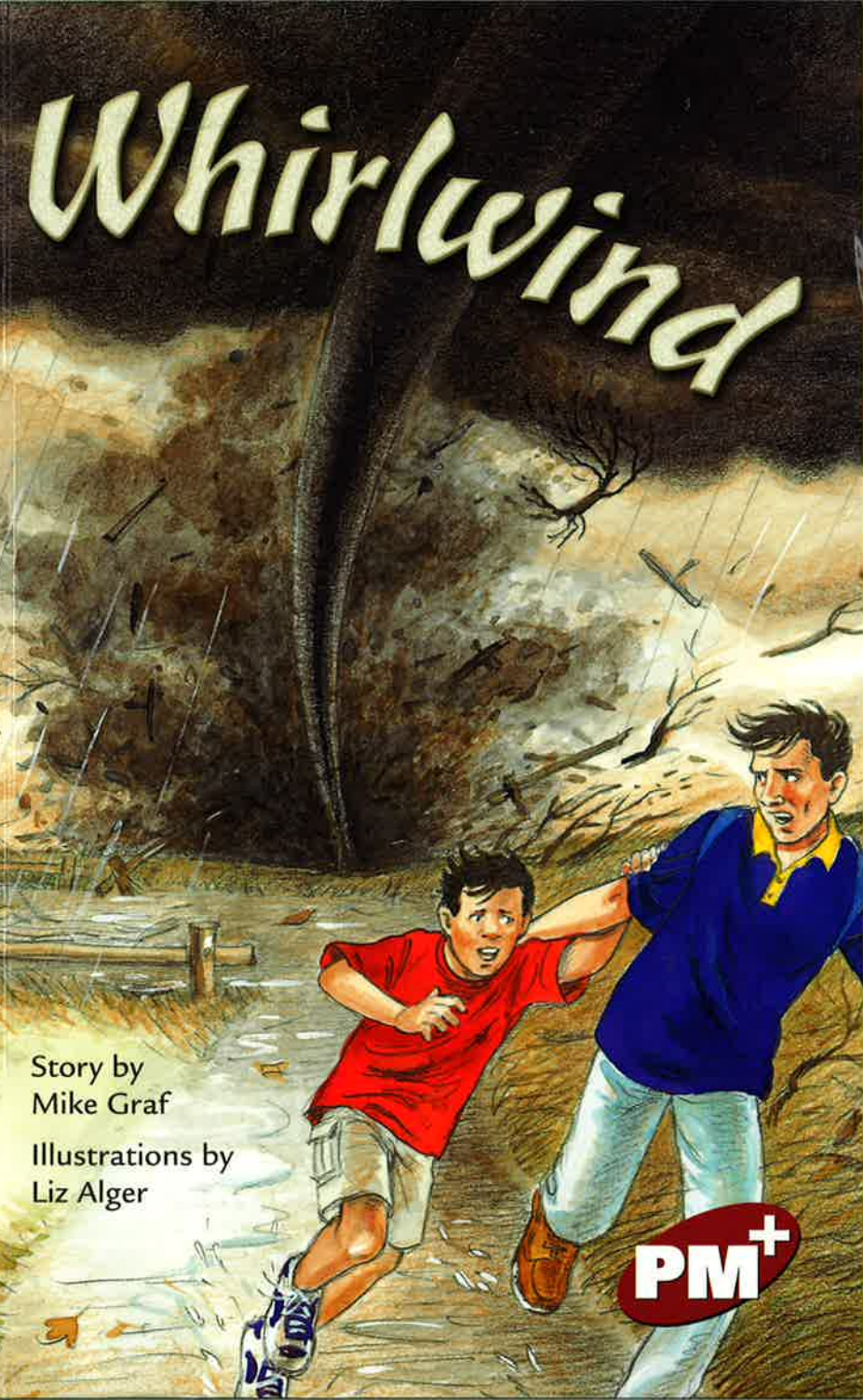
Whirlwind



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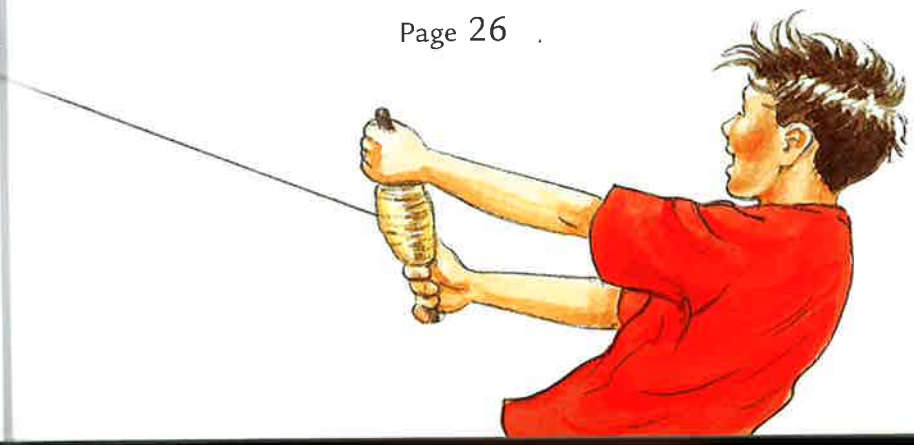
For teachers' inspection ONLY

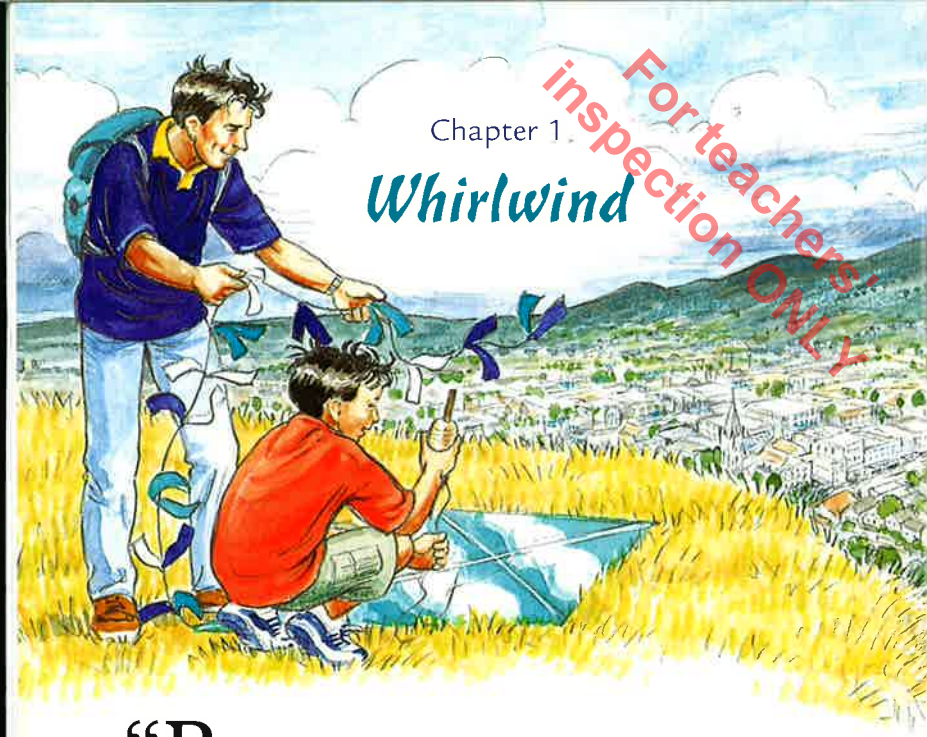
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Chapter 1

Whirlwind

"Pinebluff is a really pretty town," Dad said as he looked out over the small city. "We're lucky to live in such a great place."

"I know, Dad," Matt replied as he checked the string on *Whirlwind* – his brand new kite.

Dad stretched out the kite's tail. Then he picked up the kite and walked to the edge of the bluff.

Matt walked backwards, and unrolled the line.

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"That's as far as I can go," Dad called.

The wind was strong. The kite rustled as Dad held it high above his head. "Ready?" he called out.

"Ready," Matt replied.

Dad stretched his arms up high and thrust *Whirlwind* skywards. The diamond-shaped kite shot up.

As the kite rose, the tug increased. Matt leaned back and let the line out. He watched the kite lift higher and higher into the sky. *Whirlwind*'s long thin tail spun rapidly as it met the gusty winds above.





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Slowly, Matt walked towards Dad at the bluff's edge. Soon, *Whirlwind* was way up in the sky.

"Better stay away from the edge," Dad warned. "I don't want that kite to pull you over."

Matt leaned back and held his ground. The kite pulled hard on the line.

Dad looked up and shielded his eyes against the dazzling sun. The blue sky was decorated with puffy white clouds. He gazed at the tiny kite jumping in the wind. "Let me know when you think it's high enough."

"It's pretty windy up here," cried Matt. He struggled to control the kite.

"Can you hold on?" Dad called back.



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"Yes," Matt answered, "but *Whirlwind* wants to go higher." He took a few steps back, and held the line steady.

Dad pulled a steel rod from his backpack. It had a triangular loop at one end, and a corkscrew at the bottom.

"That's Buster's tie-post!" said Matt.

"I left the dog inside today, because there's a chance of storms later this evening," said Dad, "so I didn't have to tie him up. I thought we might be able to tie *Whirlwind* to this post if the wind gets too strong."