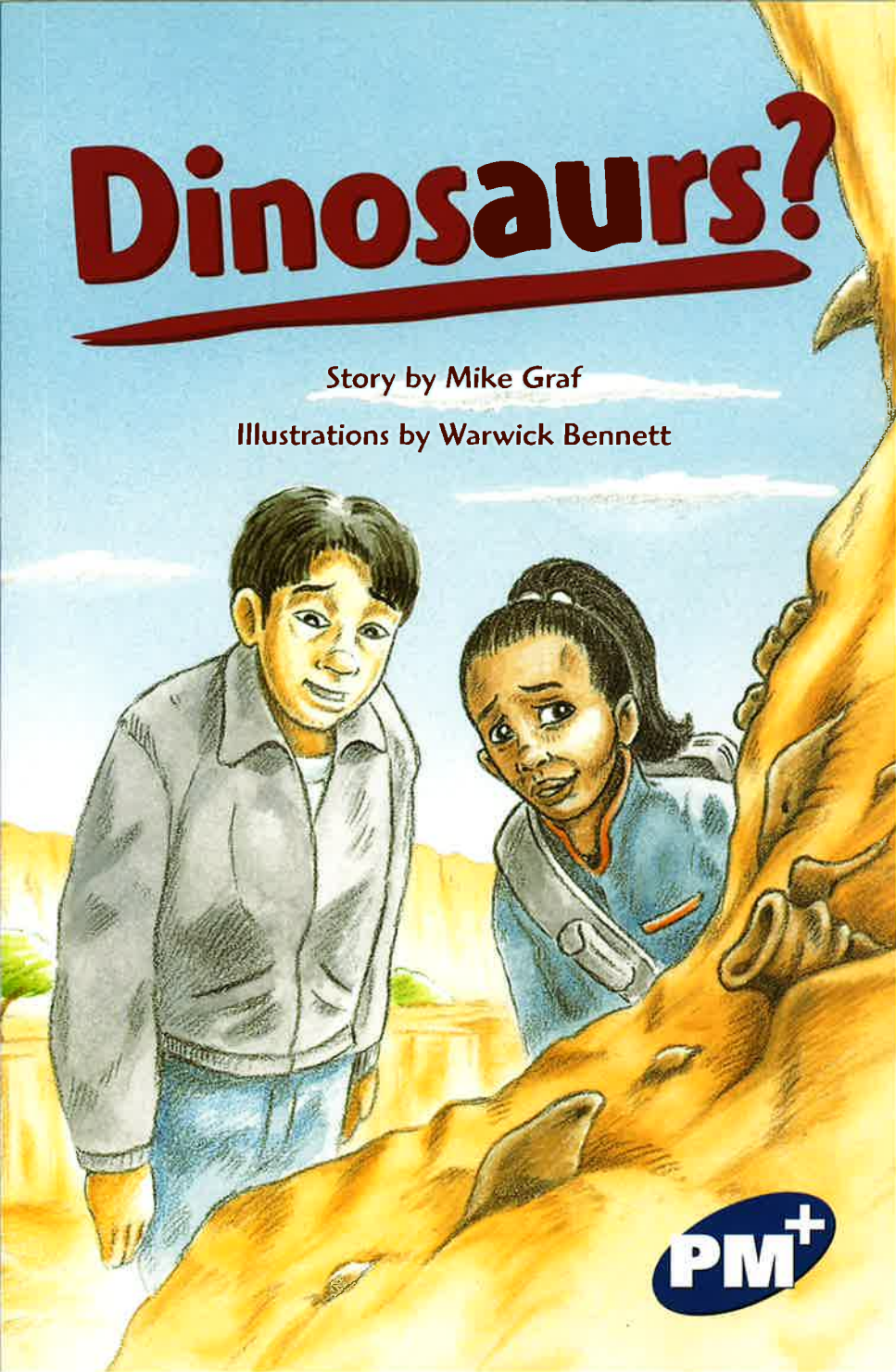
Dinosaurs?

Story by Mike Graf

Illustrations by Warwick Bennett

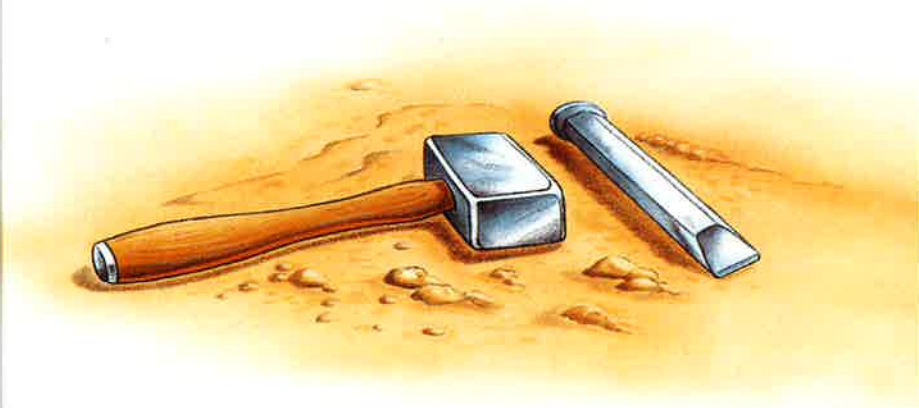


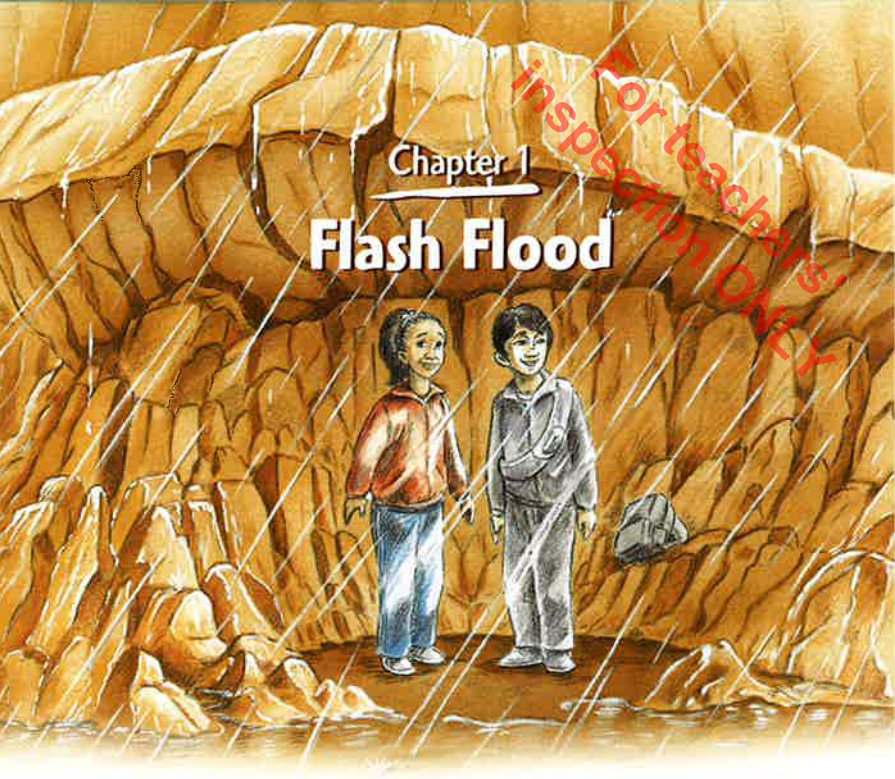
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Contents

Chapter 1	Flash Flood	4
Chapter 2	Return to the Canyon	8
Chapter 3	A Secret Collection	13
Chapter 4	Staking a Claim	16
Chapter 5	String, Shovels and Brushes	21
Chapter 6	A Top Project	31





Chapter 1
Flash Flood

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"I knew we shouldn't have come down into the canyon!" Jodie said, her hair soaking.

Ben stuck his hand out in the pouring rain. "At least it's not snowing!" He shivered and wrapped his arms around his body.

Jodie and Ben huddled against the side of the cliff, protected from the rain by an overhanging shelf of rock above them. Wind whipped trees about and blew sheets of rain furiously across the canyon.

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Jodie turned to Ben. "We have to be home before dark. We've got miles to ride home."

"I know," Ben replied. "I'll go check the sky." He jumped outside. The drenching rain instantly soaked him. The sky was dark grey, but off to the west, the sun peeked out of the clouds. "I think it's going to clear soon," Ben announced, dashing back to shelter.

"Let's make a run for it," Jodie said.

They bolted outside and onto the wet trail, which quickly led them to a raging, muddy stream.



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"We'll have to jump," Ben concluded.

"This is definitely the last time I go exploring with you," Jodie replied.

They backed up a few steps. "One, two, three...jump!" they counted together.

Thump! Jodie made it to the other side, but saw Ben plunge into water up to his waist. Ben tried to grasp a rock at the side of the creek. "I can't hold on!" he shouted, as the rapidly flowing water began to pull him downstream.

Jodie reached behind her and grabbed onto a tree root. She held out her leg. "Grab my foot!"



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Ben took hold of both Jodie's feet but his weight pulled her closer to the torrent.

"Hang on!" Jodie screamed, and gripped the slippery tree root with both hands while Ben struggled toward shallower water. "Okay!" he gasped.

Ben clambered onto the stream bank, his shoes squelching. He wiped his muddy face, looked at Jodie, and grinned. "That was fun!"

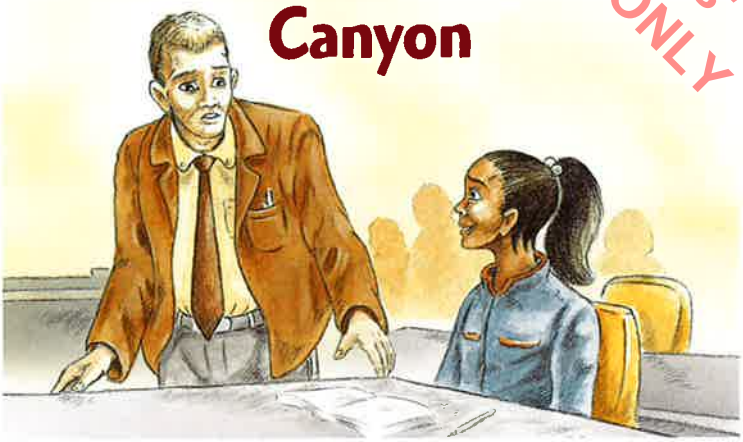
Jodie rolled her eyes. "Let's go." They headed down the trail toward their mountain bikes and home.



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Chapter 2

Return to the Canyon



"So, you're saying, Jodie, that you left your homework in a cave?" Mr Block questioned his Year six student.

"Sort of a cave," Jodie gulped, looking across at Ben. Ben smiled. Mr Block looked at both his students. "I'll get my homework back tonight," Jodie said. "I promise."

At the end of the day, Jodie met Ben in front of the school. "Do you want to come with me to the canyon?" Jodie asked.

"You bet," Ben replied.