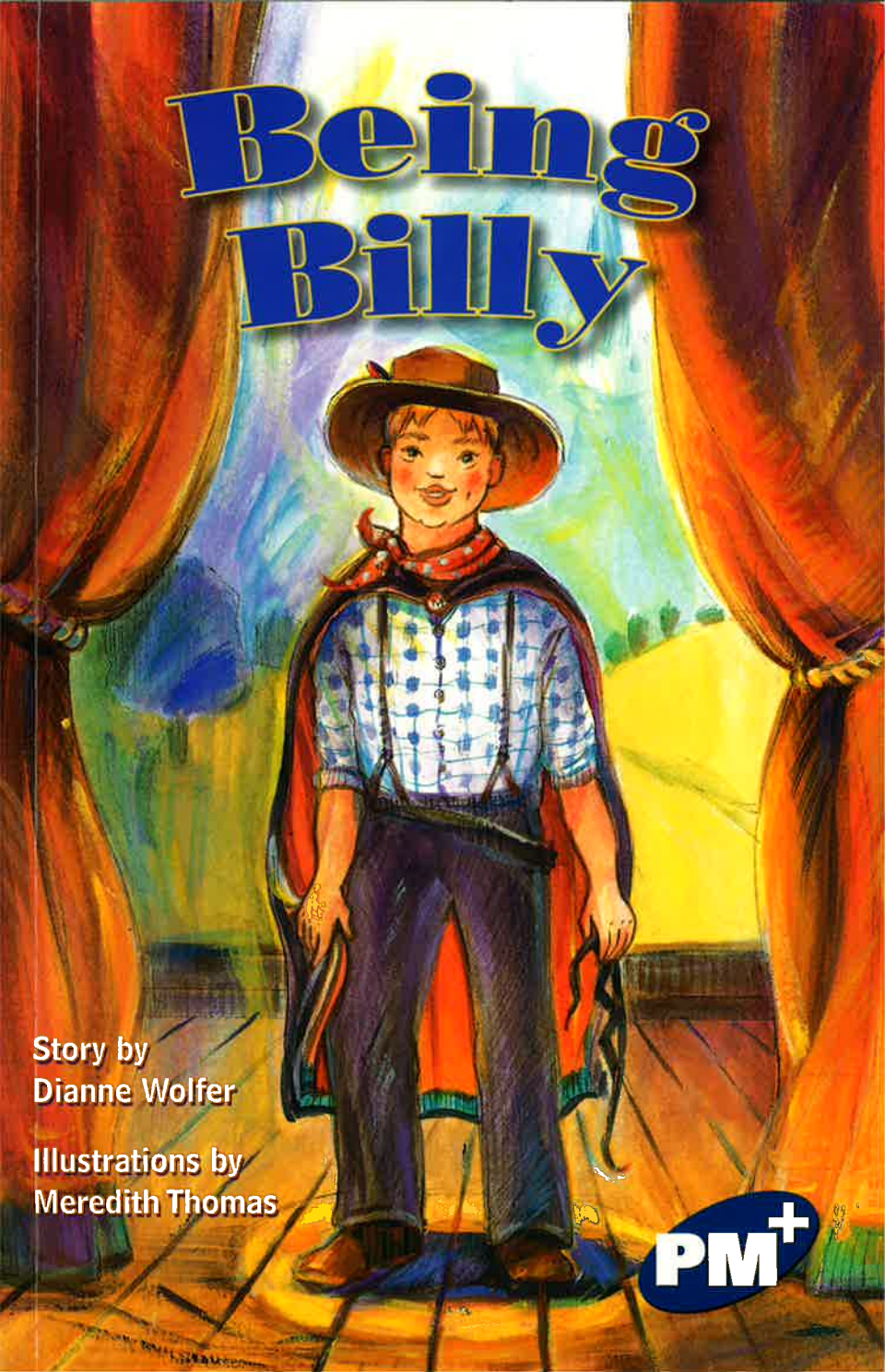
Being Billy



Story by
Dianne Wolfer

Illustrations by
Meredith Thomas

PM+

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Contents

Chapter 1	Billy and Andrew	4
Chapter 2	Billy on His Own	7
Chapter 3	Rehearsing	11
Chapter 4	Stealing the Show	16
Chapter 5	*Here and There*	24



For teachers' inspection ONLY

Chapter 1

Billy and Andrew



Billy loved his big brother Andrew. No one else in the world was as clever and wonderful. When they were together, Billy forgot that he was different.

Billy and Andrew did exciting things together. Things like building forts and catching yabbies. But what he liked most was putting on plays with Andrew and his friend, Gino. Throughout the summer holidays, the three of them made costumes and props, and performed shows for their parents or Gino's dog, Bluey.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Usually, Billy looked forward to the end of the holidays. He liked shopping for the new school year. This year there was more to buy because Andrew was going to a new school.

"I wish I could go to high school with you," Billy said. "I'll have no one to sit with on the bus."

"What about Gino? He'll be catching your bus to college."

"It won't be the same."

"Never mind. Only another year, then you'll be at high school, too. Besides, you can help with the school play this year. Mrs Robinson always needs people to help backstage."

"Maybe I could have the lead role."

Andrew smiled. "Maybe."



For teachers' inspection ONLY

That was in January. Since then, Andrew had made new friends at high school and everything had changed. He went to the movies or the mall all the time, and never invited Billy.

Sometimes Mum made him take Billy, but Andrew's high school friends always stared at him and ignored him. That made Billy mad. Just because he wasn't the same as them didn't mean they could treat him that way.

Billy felt lonely. The kids at his school were usually friendly, but he'd never had a best friend. That was one of the problems when you were different.



For teachers' inspection ONLY

Chapter 2

Billy on His Own



The Easter holidays came and went. Sometimes Gino and Billy got together, but it wasn't as much fun without Andrew.

Things became steadily worse. When Andrew and Billy went to the supermarket, Andrew refused to give Billy rides on the trolley. "We're too old for that Billy," he said. When Billy tried to hold hands, Andrew pulled away. "Only little kids do that," he said. "Besides your palms are all sweaty!" Billy wiped his hands on his jeans. Andrew had never complained about his palms before.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Billy watched Andrew. He studied his brother, looking for a sign that he was back to his old self. But all Andrew wanted was to be left alone. Billy tried leaving hints. He left their best costumes on Andrew's bed, but Andrew pushed them away. He left their photo album open at his favourite page – the picture of Bluey standing on their best fort – but Andrew ignored it.

Billy kept trying to get Andrew's attention. One day, Andrew did notice.

